



# Reading vs Luton Town



Volume 63 Issue 2  
£2.00

Tuesday 26th August 2008  
8pm kick off

**MADEJSKI STADIUM ANNIVERSARY: SOUVENIR SPECIAL**

# A DECADE OF DREAMS

We celebrate ten memorable  
years at Madejski Stadium

## Steve COPPELL

Royals boss remarks  
on the Madejski  
Stadium effect

## Elm Park AT HOME

Mementos from our  
old home still living in  
hidden quarters

## Luton TOWN

We welcome the side  
that met us for the  
stadium's unveiling

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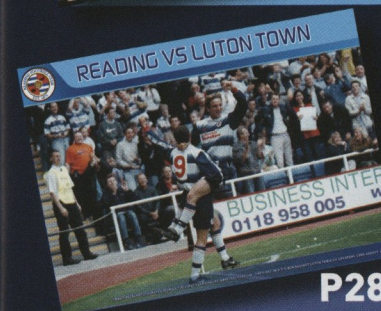
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### CLUB DIRECTORY

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Please note Madejski Stadium operates a no-smoking policy  
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# WELCOME to Madejski Stadium

# Today's match

## Editor's Welcome

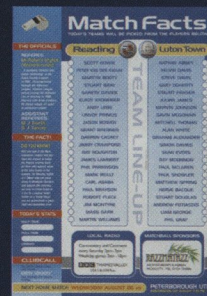
"Today sees us move into our new home," wrote then-Royals boss Tommy Burns in the souvenir edition of the matchday programme that was sold to Reading and Luton fans ten years ago. "We now have to get working on a team that is worthy of both the stadium and the supporters. I do appeal to supporters for time. We know where we want to go and have the ambition and determination to succeed. It will take time but we will work hard to achieve our ambitions and hopes." Burns was right – it did take time! Most, if not all, of the aspirations Reading Football Club harboured, when gracing their new home for the first time ten years ago, have now been realised. This evening the focus is on a meaningful cup run, but come Saturday it will return to the primary goal – achieving promotion back to a division many believe Reading still belong in.

Unfortunately, because this evening's match falls immediately after a Bank Holiday, no details of our trip to Charlton on Saturday will appear in this issue – this evening's programme needed to be signed off before the clash at the Valley to ensure we met print deadlines. A full match report, pictures and up-to-date statistics will, of course, be included in the Crystal Palace programme this weekend.

**Mark Bradley, Programme Editor**

## Reading vs Luton Town

Where are the side that started the first ever game at Madejski Stadium now? Peter van der Kwaak returned to Holland with Go Ahead Eagles and then Excelsior, and Elroy Kromheer followed him. Andy Bernal ended his career at Reading, before the Spanish-speaking Aussie international was bizarrely handed the responsibility of helping David Beckham settle in Madrid. Stuart Gray spent four years at Rushden & Diamonds and then retired after a brief spell with Oxford, while skipper Darren Caskey transferred to Notts County in 2001 and was last seen playing at Halesowen.



Reading were current Talksport pundit Ray Houghton's last professional club, but Linvoy Primus has just signed a new one-year deal at Portsmouth, despite missing all of last season with a knee injury. Jim McIntyre is currently managing Dunfermline Athletic, Mass Sarr went on his travels to Australia, Malaysia and the US, and Mark Reilly returned to Kilmarnock only months after the Madejski Stadium opener. And what of our first goalscorer – Grant Brebner scored nine more that season before moving back to Scotland with Hibernian and Dundee. He now still plays for Melbourne Victory in the Australian A-League.

### ALEX ACCOLADE

Young Royals centre back Alex Pearce has been backed to become a future captain of the Club by first team coach Kevin Dillon. The 19-year-old played his first full ninety for Reading in the 2-1 Carling Cup win over Dagenham and Dillon said, "He's an outstanding character. When he gets in, he will end up playing God knows how many games for this club. He is a great lad, a leader of men. Future captain? Yes. The kids are really starting to come through now and the day will come when we've got four or five Academy lads in the team, which will be great."

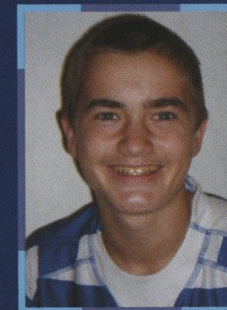


# Today's events



- 6.30pm** Madejski Stadium's turnstiles open.
- 7.55pm** Matchday music – This evening the two teams will run out to Coldplay's 'Life in Technicolor'.
- 7.56pm** Players emerge from the tunnel and complete pre-match formalities.
- 8pm** Reading v Luton Town kicks off.
- 8.45pm** Half-time
- 8.49pm** Golden Gamble draw – your chance to win big money this season! All profits from today's draw will go towards our Community Trust.
- 9pm** Second half kicks off.
- 9.45pm** Full-time.

The Carling Cup Third Round draw is scheduled to take place on Saturday 30th August.



Dominic Gardner

### ONE WATCHED

In the Royals programme of ten years ago, the 'one to watch' in the visitors section was a player called Hervé Bacqué. Bacqué began his career with Monaco as a trainee and scoring in a 1-1 pre-season friendly against Arsenal, he looked like he might be the ideal replacement for Fulham-bound Tony Thorpe. But once the season really got underway, he flopped and his final Hatters appearance came in an Auto Windscreens Shield clash with Walsall. Hervé missed a penalty, Luton lost 3-0, and he was substituted after 58 minutes, leaving the pitch in tears.

### MINI INTERVIEWS

Also in the programme ten years ago, there were very short quickfire questions aimed at a few of the players. In the mini interviews, skipper Darren Caskey told fans that the last CD he bought was 'Blue' by Simply Red, the last piece of designer gear he bought was a Ted Baker shirt and that the last dangerous sport he tried was jet skiing. Linvoy Primus meanwhile told us that the first car he bought was an X reg VW Golf and that his first concert saw him sing along with Luther Vandross.

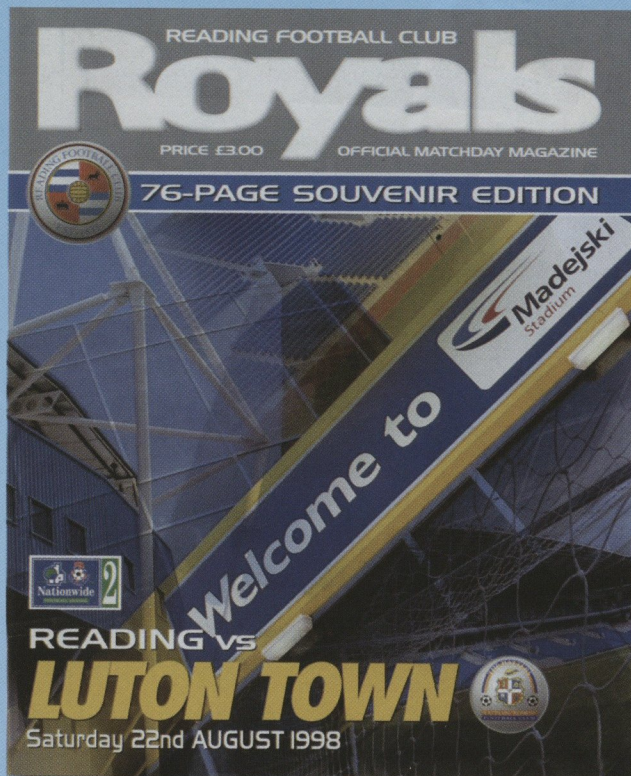
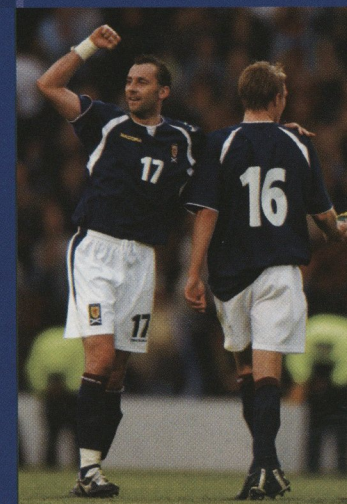
## FORM GUIDE

Reading LDLWDW  
Luton Town LLLLLW

**Royals' last League Cup three:**  
28/08/07 Swansea City (a) 1-0 (aet)  
25/09/07 Liverpool (h) 2-4  
12/08/08 Dag & Red (a) 2-1

**Hatters' last League Cup three:**  
25/09/07 Charlton Athletic (h) 3-1 (aet)  
31/10/07 Everton (h) 0-1  
12/08/08 Plymouth Argyle (h) 2-0

**HUMBLE HUTCH** Ex-Luton midfielder Don Hutchison was released by cash-strapped Town at the end of last season, and as a very kind gesture he refused his final pay packet at Kenilworth Road – instead sponsoring two of the club's youth team players, Scott Sinclair and Jake Howells, for the coming campaign! "This is a truly amazing gesture by Don," Luton managing director Gary Sweet told the club's website. "For a player to turn around and refuse his final pay packet and ask to sponsor a youth player is unheard of. This shows the type of man that Don is."



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## THE MANAGER STEVE COPPELL

### Royals boss shares his Madejski memories

**This evening we welcome Luton Town to Madejski Stadium for a second round Carling Cup tie. Of course, the fixture comes just over ten years after the stadium hosted its very first game, which by coincidence was also against Luton.**

Those ten years seem to have flown by, but Madejski Stadium is still very much a state of the art facility. A decade can be a long time in stadium development, but everybody who visits here comments very favourably on the view lines and general facilities. That's certainly the case behind the scenes, where the dressing rooms and players' facilities are as good as nearly anywhere, and the Chairman has to be complimented for the vision and energy he showed to get it built.

I remember my own visits to Elm Park with some affection – probably because I didn't have to go there every week! – but it just doesn't bear comparison to Madejski Stadium. Although the stadium doesn't really have an 'end', which is one of the first things I noticed, on so many occasions the noise generated by every corner of the ground has been almost overpowering. When it's switched on loud and the crowd are really into a game, with the noise cascading off the terraces, the atmosphere here is terrific – the equal of anywhere in the country.

As far as I can recall, my first visit to Madejski Stadium was for the play-off game against Wigan in 2001 – I remember seeing Mr Madejski shake hands with Wigan's Mr Whelan before the game and thinking, "That's a billion pounds shaking hands!" I also remember there was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the game, with a suitably dramatic finish when Nicky Forster won the game for Reading. Looking back now, you can say that evening was a sign of things to come.



Tonight's visitors Luton are in a handicap race this season after their well-publicised points penalty. For neutral observers it always seems strange to see clubs being punished so heavily for indiscretions of previous regimes, but the rules have been set. Going into a new season with such a deficit is a huge task, but this will probably serve to unify the club and make sure everyone works even harder to overcome the deficit and retain Football League status. We wish them well in that challenge.

One of Luton's routes into financial independence is a good cup run, so we know they will be very much up for this game. They had a great result against Plymouth in the previous round and we will certainly not be taking them lightly. We want to progress as far as we can in the competition so we should be in for a good game tonight.

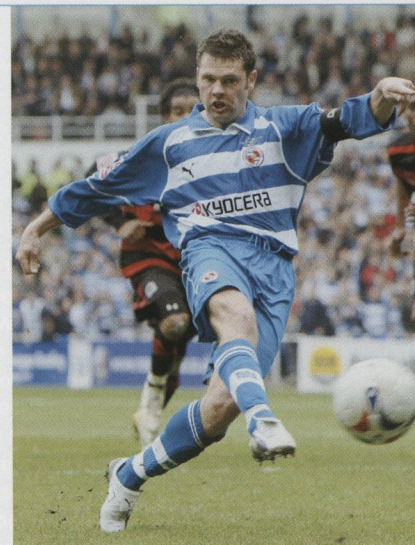
Best wishes  
Steve



# THE CAPTAIN GRAEME MURTY

## Murts recalls his magic moments

Welcome to an historic evening – it's funny how football turns up these coincidences, and as we celebrate ten years in our fantastic stadium it's only right that our opponents are the same as for the stadium's opening day, Luton Town.



I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Luton the very best of luck in the upcoming season. I have been very impressed by the manner in which they've conducted themselves following their points deduction – football teams should be judged by what happens on the pitch, and Luton's players are doing their utmost to keep their club in the Football League.

when his not-very-subtle way of showing the gulf between York and Reading was to take me into the middle of the Madejski Stadium pitch and ask how it compared to Bootham Crescent! When he asked if I could see myself playing at the stadium, never for one moment did I dream that I'd still be doing so ten years later.

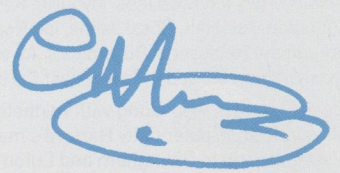
Amongst Luton's squad are two of our ex-players, Kevin Watson and Dean Morgan, and Watto has already been on the phone about five times to ensure he gets enough tickets as tonight's game is his first return here since leaving the Club. Both the guys are top lads and really good pros – it is sometimes hard to make the adjustment from friends to opponents, but that's what we have to do this evening (if for no other reason than to avoid Kev's banter!).

Everyone will have their own special memories and times when being a Reading fan at Madejski Stadium was particularly sweet, but for me you can't beat the 5-0 win over Derby with the resulting pitch invasion and championship celebrations, and then the final game of that season against QPR when we clinched the record points total...a certain dashing young right back thundering home an unstoppable penalty. I wonder if everyone sees that moment with rose tinted glasses like I do? Possibly Kingsley is the only one who doesn't! By the way, that means 100% of my goals for the club have been scored at Madejski Stadium!

Looking back on that first game ten years ago, in front of Reading's biggest attendance in many years the overriding sensation was one of hope that this stadium could galvanise the Club and the area. If you look at what we've achieved since moving to our new home, it certainly has had the desired effect.

No matter who's in the team tonight, the team spirit, ethos and way we play our football will be the same, so we're looking forward to a good performance and a passage into the next round.

Enjoy the game,



Murts

## One word: football

It's not about foreign businessmen, inflated wages, book deals or soapstar girlfriends. It's about the scrappy goal in extra time that means your team makes it into the hat for the next round. It's about the fans. It's about...football.





## HOMETEAMNEWS



There could be a brand new face leading the Royals' line this evening as former Cork City striker David Mooney hopes to make his Madejski Stadium debut tonight. The Royals completed the signing of the 23-year-old frontman last week and, with the Irish league already in mid-flow, our new no.12 should be match-fit and may start for the hosts this evening.

Marek Matejovsky missed out on a Wembley appearance last Wednesday night as his ankle injury kept him out of the Czech side for their meeting with England – and the pass master is unlikely to feature for some time yet. Sam Sodje is still unavailable after knee surgery and Brynjar Gunnarsson remains on the treatment table with medial ligament damage suffered in the summer. Michael Duberry (hamstring) is nearing a return to full fitness, but Graeme Murty's calf injury is likely to rule him out again tonight.

## AWAYTEAMNEWS

Only hours before Luton's campaign began earlier this month, manager Mick Harford swooped to sign an astonishing eleven players in less than a day. The final three that ended the flurry of transfer activity were Michael Spillane and Josh Klein-Davies on loan, and former Royals midfielder Kevin Watson on a free transfer. They followed fans' favourite Kevin Nicholls, Claude Gnakpa, George Pilkington, Asa Hall, Rossi Jarvis, Ian Roper, Chris Martin and Tristan Plummer through the Kenilworth Road doors. All will have a chance of playing this evening – seven of them started in Town's last Carling Cup clash – a 2-0 win over Plymouth.

Lewis Emanuel, who along with midfielder Keith Keane signed a new contract this summer, is potentially Harford's main injury concern – the left back missed the trip to Gillingham and Luton's first league win of the season. Youth goalkeeper Aaron Fletcher was added to the Hatters squad for their League Cup win over the Pilgrims and he could play understudy to Brill on the bench once again – with seven substitutes allowed in the competition this season, there will be plenty of space in the dugouts. But late last week, Harford also added keeper Conrad Logan to his squad – on loan from Leicester – so he could play a part tonight. Ian Roper will be hoping for a recall after losing out to Spillane in the starting line-up recently. Tony Thorpe and Stefan Moore reportedly joined Luton on loan last week, hoping to earn permanent deals at Kenilworth Road. But tonight's fixture might come too soon for both as they search for full match fitness and seek to impress Harford ●

Scott Golbourne returned to full training after a lengthy pelvic injury that has meant Stephen Hunt has had to fill in at left back in the early throes of the campaign. He or Julian Kelly could reclaim the full back position this evening, giving either Hunt, Convey or Kebe the license to maraud freely down the left flank. The fit-again Hal Robson-Kanu won't feature though as he has re-joined Southend on loan.

Noel Hunt will be hoping for another Carling Cup start after his goal separated the sides in the First Round at Dagenham – the same goes for flairy right winger James Henry who notched the opener at Victoria Road. Shane Long set up both goals so should play a key part again tonight if Coppell opts to rest Leroy Lita and Kevin Doyle. Alex Pearce could also benefit from the Royals boss' rotation policy; the young centre half may step into Ibrahima Sonko or Ivar Ingimarsson's shoes tonight. Meanwhile, Adam Federici is back with Reading after his Australian Olympic sojourn and Cameroon star Andre Bikey might be back in contention after also returning from Beijing ●

## COPPELL VS HARFORD

Considering Mick Harford's managerial career is only in its embryonic stages – certainly compared to Steve Coppell's anyway – it is not unsurprising to learn that today's bosses have never met on the sidelines. Harford has scored against a Coppell-led side however; the burly striker fired the third for Chelsea in a 3-1 win over Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge in November 1992. Richard Shaw scored an own goal for the Eagles that day and Lee Sinnott was sent off – not a good day for Palace's defence! Another link also exists; Reading's first team coach, Kevin Dillon, was a teammate of Harford at Birmingham City in the early 80s. ●



## CARLING CUP ODDS

Chelsea	5/1
Manchester United	6/1
Liverpool	6/1
Tottenham Hotspur	8/1
Arsenal	10/1
Aston Villa	16/1
Everton	16/1
Newcastle United	20/1
Portsmouth	22/1
West Ham United	25/1
Manchester City	25/1
Blackburn Rovers	28/1
Middlesbrough	28/1

## HEAD to HEAD

	Reading wins	Draws	Luton Town wins
League	19	7	18
FA Cup	0	0	1
League Cup	2	1	1
Total	21	8	20

Much of this programme is understandably dedicated to the game against Luton here ten years ago, but of course the two teams also met in the 2005/6 Carling Cup when Reading were last in the Championship. Mike Newell's side battled hard that late September evening but were undone by John Oster's first goal in Reading colours; the winger swung an Eric Obinna-won free kick through a crowded box and past keeper Dean Brill for a 35-yard 80th minute winner. The game was also notable for two debuts; Sekou Baradji started alongside James Harper in midfield and Academy star Simon Cox replaced Obinna to receive his first few professional minutes in a late substitute appearance.

Twice more the teams clashed that season. The Royals romped to a comfortable 3-0 win at Madejski Stadium in December – Steve Sidwell breaking the deadlock before the break and Dave Kitson and Kevin Doyle adding to the lead after it. And when a seemingly unstoppable Royals side travelled to Kenilworth Road in mid-February it seemed certain Steve Coppell's men would lay another nail in their challengers' coffins as they stormed clear at the top of the table. Newell's gutsy Hatters had other ideas though and dramatically ended an unbeaten league streak of 33 games; Rowan Vine cancelled out Kevin Doyle's opening minute effort to put Town 2-1 up at the break, before Dean Morgan scored against his former employers to seal the victory ●



Sunderland	50/1	Sheffield United	150/1
Wigan Athletic	66/1	Watford	175/1
Fulham	66/1	Bristol City	200/1
Birmingham City	66/1	Wolves	200/1
West Brom	80/1	Ipswich Town	250/1
Reading	80/1	Preston North End	250/1
Bolton Wanderers	80/1	Coventry City	250/1
QPR	80/1	Nottingham Forest	250/1
Stoke City	150/1	Burnley	300/1
Hull City	150/1	Southampton	350/1
Cardiff City	150/1	Leicester City	500/1
Derby County	150/1	Colchester United	750/1
Crystal Palace	150/1		

## MANINTHEMIDDLE

This evening's referee is Mr Dean Whitestone from Northampton. He has never taken charge of a Royals game before so this will be his first visit to Madejski Stadium.

In the first round of the competition two weeks ago, Whitestone was at Watford to witness a 1-0 win for the Hornets – their Second Round berth coming courtesy of an 88th minute winner from Will Hoskins. Whitestone failed to put any names in his book that night. His last Championship game also saw him referee Watford in a 2-2 away draw with Burnley.

Twice last season he was the man in the middle at Luton games – and on both occasions he produced a red card. In late September, Whitehead watched Town lose 2-0 at Huddersfield in League One – sending off Luton's birthday boy Paul Furlong for a second yellow two minutes after the half time interval. Then on New Year's Day he was at Kenilworth Road for a 1-0 Hatters win over Yeovil – this time pointing Glovers forward Paul Warne towards an early bath in the dying stages ●





## CLUB FACTFILE

Nickname: The Hatters  
Ground: Kenilworth Road  
Capacity: 9,975

Record gate:  
30,069 v Blackpool  
4th March 1959

Biggest win:  
12-0 v Bristol Rovers  
13th April 1936

Most capped player:  
Mal Donaghy (58, Northern Ireland)

Most League appearances:  
Bob Morton (494, 1948-64)

Most League goals:  
Gordon Turner (243, 1949-64)

Most goals in a season:  
Joe Payne (55, 1936/7)

### 2007/8 LEAGUE FACTFILE

Biggest win:  
4-1 v Northampton Town

Biggest loss:  
4-0 v Hartlepool United

Most appearances:  
Matthew Spring (44)

Top goalscorer:  
Matthew Spring (9)

Home record:  
W10, D5, L8, F29, A25

Away record:  
W1, D5, L17, F14, A38

Highest home gate:  
9,297 v Leeds United

Lowest home gate:  
5,417 v Oldham Athletic

Average home gate:  
6,492





## Hatters hoping hard work supplies miracle

Even for the eternal optimist, Luton's position at the foot of the Football League looks perilously bleak.

The 10 point deduction enforced by the Football League for financial irregularities was increased to an unprecedented 30 points in the summer, meaning today's visitors will need to produce at least playoff-making form to even come close to achieving League Two safety in 2008/9. Before the visit of Plymouth to Kenilworth Road two weeks ago, one might understandably have assumed that League Cup success was low on Luton's long list of priorities. But 'cash-strapped' doesn't seem to do our opponents' situation justice and after an impressive 2-0 victory over Paul Sturrock's Pilgrims – courtesy of Rossi Jarvis' thundering right-footed half volley in the 15th minute and then Tristan Plummer's finish 11 minutes from time – thoughts may have been focussed on another possible upset and a money-spinning trip to Old Trafford or Stamford Bridge in the Third Round. More than 7,000 supporters swarmed into Kenilworth Road as a morale-boosting show of support for their hard-done-by team at the start of the season, but the opening day didn't quite go according to plan. Mick Harford's

hastily arranged squad barely knew each other's names when Port Vale arrived earlier this month – Luton were bleeding six new starters on the opening day – and the Valiants took the lead through Louis Dodds midway through the first half. But a defiant Luton levelled when Sam Parkin headed home from the hosts' eleventh corner of the match before half time. Robert Taylor restored Vale's lead however and Marc Richards made sure of the points on the hour.

Rotherham and Bournemouth have also started the League Two season on minus points, giving the foot of the division a very strange outlook, but despite sitting so far adrift of safety all three have managed to reduce their arrears already. The Millers have beaten both Lincoln and Morcambe, whilst winning on penalties against Championship side Sheffield Wednesday in this competition, and Bournemouth have picked up points against Gillingham and Aldershot so far. And Luton secured a vital victory to start their seemingly impossible journey towards an unglamorous but cherished 22nd placed finish. Travelling to Kent seven days into the new season, the Hatters took the lead in the third minute; on-loan striker Chris Martin raced down the left and crossed into the unmarked Parkin, who calmly headed the only goal of the game ●

## 10 YEAR HISTORY

1998/9 – Lennie Lawrence was the man who led Luton to Madejski Stadium on its opening day and, having lost 3-0, Town finished three points behind the Royals – mid-table mediocrity. League One position: 12th

1999/2000 – Financially desperate, director Cliff Bassett helped pull Luton out of administration before the season's start. Finish just one point but three places behind Reading this time. League One position: 13th

2000/1 – Lawrence sacked and after brief managerial stints from Ricky Hill and Lil Fucillo, Joe Kinnear was appointed in February. Not in time to save Luton from the drop though. League One position: 22nd

2001/2 – In his first full season Kinnear steers Luton to promotion back to the third tier, largely courtesy of an undefeated run of 14 towards the end of the season. Runners-up to Plymouth. League Two position: 2nd

2002/3 – A season of consolidation as Luton secure a top half finish in their first season back in League One. A John Curney-led consortium take the Club over in May. League One position: 9th

2003/4 – Kinnear and his assistant Mick Harford were controversially dismissed under the new ownership and Mike Newell was placed in charge courtesy of a bizarre phone vote! Finish seven points off a playoff place. League One position: 10th

2004/5 – Newell guides Luton to the title by amassing 98 points and scoring 87 goals along the way. Curtis Davies named the League One Player of the Year. League One position: Champions

2005/6 – Missed out on a playoff place despite promising form. Were one of only two teams to beat title-winners Reading. Championship position: 10th

2006/7 – Stars are sold on and after a promising start Luton slide. Newell is sacked and Kevin Blackwell is appointed in March. Not in time to save Luton from relegation. Championship position: 23rd

2007/8 – In late November the club entered administration once again and 10 points were deducted from the club. Players weren't paid and Blackwell left as Luton suffered a second successive relegation. Championship position: 24th

## THE MANAGER

### Mick HARFORD



Harford first developed into a strong, robust frontman as an 18-year old at Lincoln before an £180,000 move to Newcastle in December 1980.

Failing to settle in the northeast he moved to Bristol City and then Birmingham, where he was teammates with Reading's first team coach Kevin Dillon. Not before a £250,000 transfer to David Pleat's Luton in 1984 did he start to make his mark though – scoring 81 goals in 182 starts for Town during a six-year stay at Kenilworth Road. Capped twice by England during his Hatters pomp – his debut coming against Israel in 1988 – Harford also helped Luton win their first major trophy with a 3-2 win over Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup. He spent 18 months at Derby before returning to Luton for the 1991/2 campaign – in which he scored another 12 goals. Spells at Chelsea, Sunderland, briefly Coventry and then Wimbledon followed, before he hung up his boots for a coaching role with the Dons.

After unsurprisingly cutting his teeth as Joe Kinnear's assistant at Luton, Harford left Town to rejoin Kinnear at Nottingham Forest, where his still fledgling managerial career began with caretaker duties at the City Ground in December 2004. Harford then teamed up with Andy King at Swindon in February 2005, but two months later he was appointed as already relegated Rotherham boss.

After a promising start he was sacked before the year was out and, after a coaching role at Millwall, he moved to become Geraint Williams' assistant at Colchester. A stint as John Gregory's understudy at QPR followed, as did another brief caretaker role following Gregory's departure, but his true calling came in January when Harford was unveiled as the new manager of cash-strapped Luton.

Maybe the Luton boss' most memorable moment against Reading so far came in the Simod Cup Final – when the powerful striker scored the opener in front of 61,470 at Wembley on 27th March in 1988. The Division One Hatters were stunned by a free-flowing Reading outfit however, who came back to romp to an historic 4-1 victory ●

## MANAGER STATS

Date of birth: 12th February 1959

Place of birth: Sunderland

Teams managed:

2004-2005 – Nottingham Forest (caretaker)

2005 – Rotherham United

2007 – QPR

2008 – present – Luton Town

## CLUB TRIVIA

**SIMOD STARS** Little has been made of our meeting with Luton little more than 20 years ago – in the Simod Cup Final in March 1988. The Royals enjoyed one of the most memorable days in their history when they lifted the trophy at Wembley, having beaten the Hatters 4-1 thanks to goals from Michael Gilkes, Stuart Beavon, Mick Tait and Neil Smillie. Mick Harford – Luton's boss this evening – had headed Luton in front, but a crowd of 61,740 saw the Royals lift the silverware.



**TRANSFERS** Big money transfers seem a distant memory for Luton fans these days, but it's worth remembering that the Hatters only received their record transfer sum in August 2005. The Kenilworth Road club received £3m for Curtis Davies, who moved to West Bromwich Albion almost exactly three years ago. The most Luton have ever forked out for a player is £850,000 – paid to Odense for Lars Elstrup in August 1989.



**OWEN SAVIOUR** In January 2008, Luton Town's administrator awarded 'preferred bidder' status to Luton Town FC 2020 – a consortium led by former TVAM presenter Nick Owen. Owen found fame co-presenting the morning breakfast show with Anne Diamond, whom he teamed up with again to front 'Good Morning with Anne and Nick' on BBC1. The former Sporting Triangles quiz host is currently the main presenter on Midlands Today and is rumoured to have inspired Steve Coogan's Alan Partridge character.



**HEADBAND** Another name linked with the consortium that is trying to guide Luton out of trouble, is former centre half Steve Foster. The Portsmouth-born defender was famed for wearing a headband during his 19-year playing career, which started at Portsmouth but arguably peaked at Luton between November 1984-1989. As a Hatter he skipped Town to League Cup glory in 1988, when Luton beat Arsenal 3-2 in the final. He also earned three England caps.







Name Apts Goals

## GOALKEEPERS

1	Dean Brill	2	0
35	Marlon Beresford	0	0

Experienced stopper signed in July 2004. Has more than 550 appearances under his belt during spells at Bury, Northampton, Crewe, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday, Wolves, York, Bradford, Oldham, Barnsley and Luton.

36	Aaron Fletcher	0	0
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## DEFENDERS

2	Claude Gnakpa	2	0
3	Sol Davis	2	0
5	Ian Roper	1	0

Nuneaton-born 31-year-old central defender who signed a contract at Luton in August. Roper had spent 13 years at Walsall previously, amassing almost 400 appearances in total.

6	George Pilkington	2	0
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11	Lewis Emanuel	1	0
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Pacy full back who arrived at Kenilworth Road from Bradford in 2006. Also capable of playing in midfield, he made more than 150 appearances for the Bantams during six years at Valley Parade.

15	Ed Asafu-Adjaye	0	0
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Academy product who spent a short loan spell at non-league Watton & Hershaw, before breaking into the Hatters first team under former boss Mike Newell.

20	Michael Spillane	1	0
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19-year-old defender on a season-long loan from Norwich. A Cambridge-born Republic of Ireland under-19 international who is tipped to have a bright future.

26	Richard Jackson	0	0
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39	Harry Hogarth	0	0
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40	Jake Howells	0	0
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## MIDFIELDERS

4	Keith Keane	1	0
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Irish youngster who made his Hatters debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003 and went on to make another 14 appearances that season. Most comfortable on the right side.

8	Kevin Nicholls	2	0
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14	Asa Hall	2	0
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16	Rossi Jarvis	2	0
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Adaptable ex-Norwich youngster who can also play at the back. Became the youngest player to appear for the Canaries' reserve team at the tender age of 14! Has spent loan periods at Torquay and Rotherham.

17	Kevin Watson	0(+1)	0
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## STRIKERS

9	Sam Parkin	2	2
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10	Ryan Charles	0	0
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18	Chris Martin	2	0
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19	Drew Talbot	0	0
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Energetic striker who has been at Luton since turning nine and who scored 17 goals during his debut season for Hatters' youth team. 12 more followed the following season and he earned a first team debut at Southend in March.

22	Josh Klein-Davies	0(+1)	0
----	-------------------	-------	---

6'2" Welsh youth international who joined the Hatters on loan from Bristol Rovers this month. Signed for Rovers after being released by local rivals Bristol City's academy set-up.

23	Tristan Plummer	0(+2)	0
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Pacy striker currently on loan from Bristol City, who regard him as one for the future. Has been capped for England under-17s.

27	Dean Morgan	0	0
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Lightning quick ex-Royals forward, who moved to Kenilworth Road from Reading in July 2005. Scored three league goals in 13 starts for the Royals.

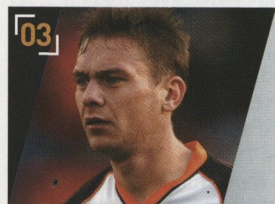
28	Paul McVeigh	0	0
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37	George Beavan	0	0
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**01**  
**DEAN BRILL**  
Goalkeeper. Age 22.

Luton-born stopper who has been at Kenilworth Road since the age of nine. Brill first made his league debut in September 2003 – having replaced the red-carded Rob Beckwith in a 0–3 loss at Oldham. His full debut arrived three weeks later in a 3–1 home win over Wycombe. Unused in 2004/5, he stood in for the injured Marlon Beresford at the start of the following season, before gaining valuable first team experience at Gillingham. The towering keeper won the Club's Young Player of the Year award despite relegation and is now Town's established no. 1.



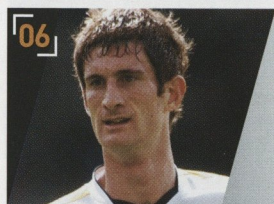
**03**  
**SOL DAVIS**  
Defender. Age 28.

Experienced left back who made almost 130 appearances for Swindon before being lured to Luton by Joe Kinnear in August 2002. He soon became a much loved player at Kenilworth Road and was named Players' Player of the Year in 2004/5 – a season in which he scored his first and only two professional goals. Alarmingly, he suffered a stroke whilst travelling to a game at Ipswich, but he returned to action against Cardiff on New Years Day 2007. After a two-month loan at Peterborough last season, Kevin Blackwell's departure earned him an immediate recall to the Luton side.



**02**  
**CLAUDE GNAKPA**  
Defender. Age 25.

Versatile Marseille-born defender who began his professional career at Montpellier. Leaving France, spells at Racing de Santander, Alavés and Vaduz followed and in March 2007, Gnakpa was signed by Paul Sturrock at Swindon on a short-term contract. Failing to make it into the first team, he was released and Peterborough boss Darren Ferguson snapped him up for a trial. The pacy tough tackler soon became a regular at London Road starting 25 times in the league as Posh were promoted, but he left United to join Luton earlier this month.



**06**  
**GEORGE PILKINGTON**  
Defender. Age 26.

Robust defender who began as a trainee at Everton, following his time at the National School of Excellence and his appearances as an England schoolboy. Failing to make a first team appearance for the Toffees, he spent a short loan stint at Exeter and then moved to Port Vale in 2003 where he was twice named their Player of the Year. Named club captain in 2006, he signed a new two-year deal but following Vale's relegation in May, his 252-appearance stay with the Valiants came to an end when he joined Luton.



**ONE TO WATCH**  
**Sam PARKIN**

Forward. Age 27

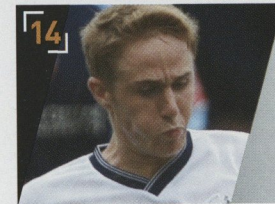
Home fans are unlikely to extend a warm welcome to a former Chelsea trainee striker, who made his name at local rivals Swindon Town during a prolific three-season stay. But Parkin has begun the season with two goals in two games and will be looking to prove his potential after two injury-plagued campaigns at Town. The 6'2" Roehampton-born frontman failed to break through at Stamford Bridge and enjoyed brief loan spells at Millwall, Northampton, Wycombe and Oldham before signing permanently with the Robins in August 2002.

At Town he flourished, scoring an impressive 67 goals in 120 league starts with Swindon – a record that prompted Ipswich boss Joe Royle to pay £550,000 for his services in 2005. Starting alongside Nick Forster up front, he scored in his second game as a Tractorboy – a 2-1 defeat at QPR – but a broken ankle ended Parkin's season early. Fast falling out of favour under Jim Magilton at Portman Road, he moved to Luton Town for £340,000, but injury struck again and Luton were relegated.



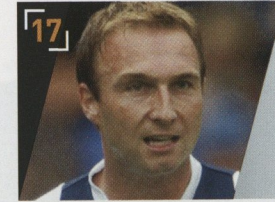
**08**  
**KEVIN NICHOLLS**  
Midfielder. Age 29.

Newham-born midfielder who persuaded Preston to release him so he could resign for his beloved Luton this summer. Nicholls began at Charlton in the 1996/7 season, but after a string of injuries and a loan stint with Brighton he switched to Wigan for £250,000. Injury again blighted his progress and his only goal came in a playoff semi-final 2-1 defeat to Reading. Arriving at Luton in 2001, he skipped the Hatters to promotion, before transferring to Leeds for £750,000 in July 2006. That move turned sour and after spending last season at Deepdale he returned to Kenilworth Road.



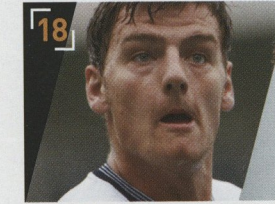
**14**  
**ASA HALL**  
Midfielder. Age 21.

Versatile West-Midlander who began as a trainee at Wolves. His first professional contract was, however, signed with Birmingham at the age of 17 in 2004, where he earned England under-19 and under-20 caps and was named the Blues' Young Player of the Year. Loan interludes followed with Boston and Shrewsbury, scoring on debut in a 2-0 win against Morecambe for the latter, but a move to the New Meadow was scuppered by Gary Peters' dismissal and when released by Birmingham this summer Hall opted to join Luton.



**17**  
**KEVIN WATSON**  
Midfielder. Age 34.

Experienced central midfielder who made the Hatters his ninth club in total after Colchester released him this summer. Watson began at Tottenham, making a handful of top flight first team appearances besides serving loan stretches at Brentford, Bristol City and Barnet. In 1996, he moved to Steve McMahon's Swindon, before spending three successful years with Rotherham United, whom he captained to successive promotions. Reading boss Alan Pardew signed him for £150,000 and he helped the Royals reach the second tier in his first season. He then joined former teammate Phil Parkinson at Layer Road to secure his fourth promotion.



**18**  
**CHRIS MARTIN**  
Striker. Age 19.

Not Coldplay's lead singer, but Norwich City's young striker who has swapped the 'Yellow' of Carrow Road for a loan spell at Luton. Five goals in 30 appearances for City were followed by a goal on debut for the England under-19s in March 2007. Strong for his age and technically gifted. But 'A Message' to Luton fans, 'The Hardest Part' of his task this season will be trying to 'Fix You' by preventing a side seemingly condemned to relegation from dropping out of the football league.

# A DECADE OF DREAMS

Soon after taking over as Chairman in 1990, John Madejski made the decision that, for the Club to make any real long-term progress, they had to move.

Elm Park had been Reading FC's home for a century...and it showed. With a capacity of around 15,000 – which would have been halved if the ground had been converted into an all-seater – and no space to develop, it was simply not compatible for top level football. So Madejski began

the search for a suitable location to build, eventually settling on a vast former household waste site on the outskirts of town and close to junction 11 of the M4.

Seeing the wide and dirty expanses of mud and fields, it must have been hard to envisage a state of the art sporting facility being erected on the site. But Madejski had that vision, and with the help of Reading Borough Council he set to work.

The new stadium finally opened its doors on 22nd August 1998 for a 3-0 Division Two victory over Luton Town, and in its opening decade has amply demonstrated its worth by allowing Reading FC to develop into a far bigger and better specimen than would ever have been possible at Elm Park – complete with on-site training centre, 200-room hotel, conference centre and radio station!

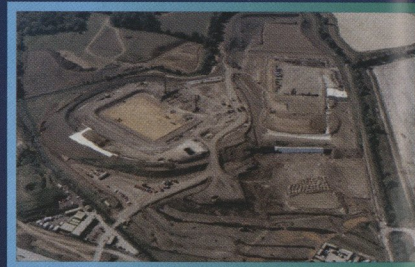
There have been many, many highlights in the ten years since Madejski Stadium first opened its doors, but arguably none more gloriously memorable than Sunday 30th April 2006, when 23,156 flocked to the ground to watch the record-breaking championship-winning Royals crown their season with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers, thus securing the highest points tally ever registered in the history of the Football League. Madejski Stadium had come of age.

# A DECADE OF DREAMS

Although leaving Elm Park was a difficult decision for John Madejski to make, in many ways it was also a very easy decision.



We knew it would cost millions to get rid of all the waste and we had to make a sizeable contribution to the building of the A33 relief road, but it was where we wanted to be. It's a very good site – in fact you could argue that it's too good for a football stadium because, commercially, it's very attractive and very viable."



To oversee the building project, Madejski recruited property developer Nigel Howe, now the Club's chief executive, and he was also enticed by the new stadium's location. Speaking in 'A Decade Of Dreams', Howe notes, "My background was property, and the best property developments I've ever done have all been based on location.

"We looked extensively, all around Berkshire. Inside and outside of Reading, there were lots of places we looked at. We needed a big site because I didn't want to go for bog standard. I wanted to produce a stadium we could all be proud of, a bowl-type stadium where everybody in the whole arena could see the field of play. Some of the other stadiums you go to, there are pillars in the way or something trapping you from seeing the whole action. But here everyone gets to see everything, and that's something we're very proud of.

"We worked very diligently with the local Borough Council and they came up with the site here. It really caught our imagination. It was a landfill site that was used to throw away millions of plastic rubbish bags, but our over-riding thought was 'location, location, location'.

Speaking in an exclusive interview for the Club's new book 'A Decade Of Dreams', Madejski recalls, "Fundamentally we knew that trying to revamp Elm Park was a complete waste of time and effort, because it was in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was landlocked. It was perfectly good when it was built 100 years ago because people used to walk everywhere and it was easy to get to. But people don't walk anywhere these days. Elm Park was past its sell-by date and we desperately needed to switch to a new environment.

That applies for this stadium. We're sat just off junction 11 of the M4, 30 miles from London, close to Heathrow, 50-60 miles from Bristol and the M5, close to good links to the south coast, and via the A34 and A404 to the M40 we have an easy run to Birmingham. We have a great network here to get people to and from the stadium quickly for whatever reason, sport or business.

"When I visited the site for the first time I was surprised. I didn't expect it to be overland fill, I was expecting a lake that had been filled in. I didn't expect to see great big mounds of earth! But actually that made it appeal to me even more, because I could see the impact would be even greater. Although construction-wise it was going to present trials in dealing with the landfill, the site was so prominent it meant the stadium would be seen from quite a long distance away and it would be a major landmark building."

The Club realised that moving away from Elm Park would be a culture shock for supporters, with Howe admitting, "We knew that building a new stadium wasn't unanimously applauded by the fans. A lot of people felt they were going to lose the traditions of Elm Park. But, to be honest, if you put sentimentality to one side Elm Park was gone as a football venue, it was falling down! But it was in the centre of town, and that was a big reason why a lot of fans liked it, along with the history and atmosphere of the place.



"We always accepted that it would take three or four months for people to get used to the new stadium, but we were hopeful that they would also realise how many benefits it was going to bring the Club. The transition from Elm Park to this stadium was a big one for the fans and we were conscious that it was difficult for them, but they were changes we had to make for the sake of taking the Club forward."

The next step was to decide on the design of the new stadium, and, perhaps somewhat ambitiously at the time, Madejski was determined to build an arena that would be capable of hosting Premier League football.

Howe recalls, "We always wanted to get as close as we could to 25,000 seats. We'd carried out research and the results showed that, although during that time we generally

had crowds of only 8-9,000 at Elm Park, we felt the area could consistently sustain a much higher level of attendance even if we weren't in the Premier League. We believed that we could get close to a crowd of 25,000 in the Championship at least six or seven times a year. And if we could get to the Premier League we felt we would fill that capacity on a regular basis, and of course with hindsight that's been proved to be right."

The full story of Madejski Stadium's first ten years is told in 'A Decade Of Dreams', a fully-illustrated 256-page book available now for £16.99. Authors Mark Bradley and Andy West will be joined by skipper Graeme Murty for a special book signing session between 3-4pm in the Megastore tomorrow afternoon ●



**// When I visited the site for the first time I was surprised. I didn't expect it to be overland fill, I was expecting a lake that had been filled in. I didn't expect to see great big mounds of earth! //**

**NIGEL HOWE**



**Channel Marketing Executive**  
*Based in Reading*

Kyocera Mita, the UK documents solutions subsidiary of the multinational Kyocera Corporation, is looking for Channel Marketing Executive to join our Marketing team.

Primary responsibilities for this role will be the implementation and day to day management of our channel marketing programme involving:

- Proactively working with distributors and resellers to maximize sales and expand the opportunity to promote our products
- Developing, implementing, evaluating and reporting on quarterly co-funded marketing programmes
- Implementation of channel marketing campaigns to support product launches and vertical marketing activity
- Assisting with the development of sales tools, training aids and marketing materials to support channel marketing activities
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- General support for channel-facing marketing activities

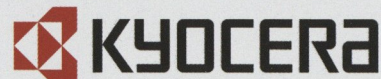
The successful candidate will have a good general education and previous experience in channel marketing, preferably in the IT industry. Excellent communication skills together with strong administrative skills and the ability to thrive in a pressurized environment are key requirements for the role. A creative flair would also be advantageous.

In return, we offer a competitive salary and benefits package; the opportunity to work within a dynamic and challenging environment; and excellent opportunities for personal development.

If you are interested, and believe you match the above criteria, please apply in writing (quoting current salary) to Sandra Rogers, Personnel Manager, Kyocera Mita (UK) Ltd., 8 Beacontree Plaza, Gillette Way, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0BS or email to [srogers@kyoceramita.co.uk](mailto:srogers@kyoceramita.co.uk).

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# STAR

Having mulled over the coincidence of starting this Championship season at home against Plymouth, one has to be struck by the fate that has drawn us against Luton Town almost 10 years to the day after the 'Mad Stad' first opened. On that day the Club were understandably overwhelmed, and if I recall correctly a blind man and his dog were in sole charge of ticketing and catering for the stadium....or it felt that way as queues snaked around the ground and blocked the concourses.

Given that we were, at the time of the Luton game, enduring a run of 18 defeats in 21 games, and over that period had a goal tally of 11 scored and 45 conceded, it is perhaps understandable that Reading Football Club were surprised to find more than 18,000 fans turn up for the opening home fixture - we had already lost three away games that season! The history books show that we thrashed the Hatters 3-0. The man of the match, according to Fans' online chatrooms, was Mass Sarr! Hmmm, how embarrassed will 'Graham' be to find that he wrote: "Quote from the matchday programme about Mass Sarr: 'talented...unselfish and a good creator of chances'. These words are the biggest understatement you'll ever read. Sarr IS GOD. We are not worthy! He must be set to be one of the best players any of us have ever seen in a Reading shirt."

Still 10 years on and we have seen widely varying fortunes for the two clubs. Reading spent the first four years at Madejski Stadium in the third tier. The first two seasons dished up the sort of mediocrity that Royals fans had become accustomed to and tended to expect. Then, in 2001, we were galvanised by a playoff final and at the end of the next season, we saw THAT goal by Cuero at Brentford,

**TONY KNOX is**  
experiencing déjà vu again!



and celebrated automatic promotion. The next four seasons were successful and brought us a playoff semi-final as well as two campaigns in which we fell just short of a playoff finale. These were all superceded by fairytale seasons in 2005/6 and 2006/7 when 'little old Reading' rewrote records for fun - and then almost qualified for Europe at their first attempt. Admittedly last season was disappointing, but at least we now have a chance for further success!

In the same period Luton have flirted with the lower tiers and seem likely to be relegated from the Football League this season. This is a result of the deduction of 30 points before a ball was kicked. Granted that the club had changed hands in the interim period, it seems very severe that it may well destroy a community club. Whilst many may mock with chants of 'going down' this evening, it is only reasonable to ponder the apparent injustice for a moment. When clubs in the top four are accused of 'bunging' or 'tapping up' nothing is ever proven. But when a smaller club, like Luton or Rotherham, makes a mistake suddenly there is a need for 'deterrent penalties'.

I would suggest that loyal Royals might like to support Luton's fight for survival - many will remember when Luton were flying high in the top flight and Reading were struggling.

Remember too - a wounded Luton may be dangerous! Their players are playing for their careers and it should not necessarily be expected that we will replicate the 3-0 of a decade ago. Hopefully we will be good enough to win this evening - but in the previous round they did despatch Plymouth.

**DISABLED TRAVEL**

'Readibus' is a service supported by STAR and provides a superb door-to-door service for Reading fans. Each Readibus can take up to three wheelchairs and there are now at least three drivers available for both home and away games. Disabled fans, who need help to have mobility should call 0118 931 0000 for full details. Away travel prices are the same as for the STAR coaches and the drivers, all volunteers and loyal fans, are very helpful in solving any issue you might have. This season it would be really good to see more fans use the service ●

# TODAY'S the Day 26th August

By Alan Sedunary

## Today in 1944 MATCH OF THE DAY

During the war years players were not paid win bonuses so the emphasis was on entertaining play rather than winning at all costs. As a result there were some spectacular scorelines, none more than the final score for our visit to Charlton on the opening day of the 1944/5 season. Reading flew out of the blocks and scored no fewer than six goals before half time. Maurice Edelston completed a first half hat-trick while Tony MacPhee netted twice and Willie Fagan also scored on his debut as a guest from Liverpool. MacPhee netted another two after the break to make the final score, Reading 8 Charlton 2. There was no dispute over who out of Edelston and MacPhee received the matchball; in those days of rationing and shortages, footballs were too valuable to be given away to hat-trick scorers.

In their next game Reading kept up the entertainment, beating Fulham 5-4 and so justifying manager Joe Edelston's recent pay rise to £750 a year. Less well rewarded was long-serving groundsman Fred Bartholomew who had just celebrated 40 years at Elm Park with an award from the club of just ten guineas (£10.25).

## Today in 1964 DREAM DEBUT

Reading's first home game of 1964/5 gave the fans their first chance to see the Club's two new signings and although Pat Terry was to be a regular scorer in future games it was the other signing that caught the eye. A free transfer from this evening's visitors, Luton, Mick Fairchild crowned an impressive display on the right wing with his first goal for the Club while Peter Shreeves netted our two other goals in a 3-1 win over Shrewsbury.

Although Luton beat Colchester United 3-1 on the same day, perhaps they should have held on to Fairchild as the Bedfordshire side ended the season by being relegated to the Fourth Division.

## Today in 1978 TOP OF THE LEAGUE (PART 1)

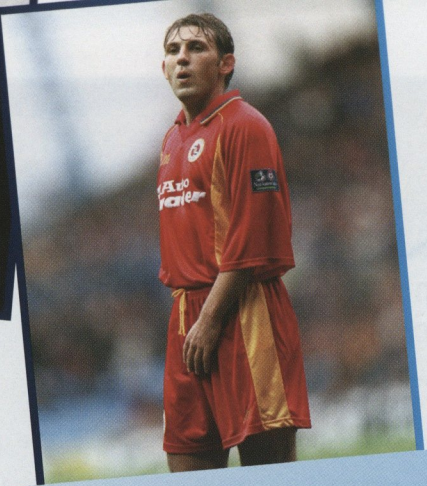
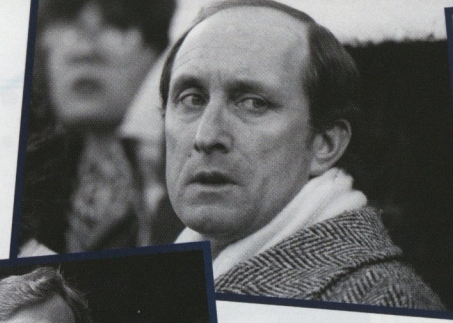
Played five, won five was Reading's impressive start to 1978/9, a season, like 1985/6, that was to see the Club finish as champions. That fifth victory was against league newcomers, Wigan Athletic, and as such created a little bit of history since it was the Latics' first away defeat in the league. Reading dominated the game from start to finish, the visitors still coming to terms with league football, and took the lead on 33 minutes when Ollie Kearns scored from the penalty spot. The kick was given for an infringement against Richie Bowman but, without the aid of television coverage, the two local papers could not agree on exactly what the offence was; the Post stated that Bowman was fouled while the Chronicle went for handball! There was no doubt about Reading's second goal, young Lawrie Sanchez beating a defender on the edge of the box before crashing home an unstoppable shot to clinch a 2-0 victory.

In the Second Division, Luton were going down by the only goal of the game at Newcastle.

## Today in 1985 TOP OF THE LEAGUE (PART 2)

After two 1-0 wins Reading had to show their fighting spirit as they twice came back to beat a dogged Bristol Rovers side. Our first equaliser had a hint of luck about it, the visitors' Phil Bater knocking Jerry Williams' teasing cross into his own net. Our second equaliser came from a well-rehearsed Reading routine, Martin Hicks back-heading Mark White's corner into the net. The winner arrived on 72 minutes and this also came from a fine header, this time Dean Horrix converting another Williams cross. This victory put Reading top of the season's first league table and yet this entertaining game only attracted 3,529 to watch the soon-to-be 'Record Breaking Royals.'

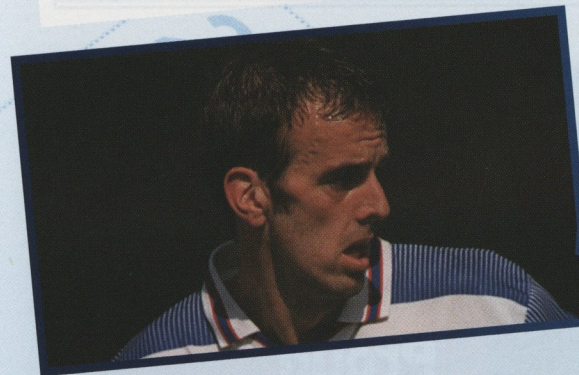
Luton were also successful 23 years ago today as goals from Danny Wilson and Brian Stein saw them beat Southampton in the First Division.



## Today in 1998 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

By a strange coincidence, this evening's game is being played on the tenth anniversary of Madejski Stadium's very first League Cup tie. Just four days after the stadium's spectacular opening, (neither Reading nor Luton fans need reminding of that result!) Peterborough came to Reading for the second leg of the first round tie - the game at London Road having ended goalless. Remarkably, the game kicked off 15 minutes late due to crowd congestion; 'remarkably' because the attendance was only 9,151!

Reading opened the scoring with Darren Caskey's first penalty for the Royals after Mass Sarr had been fouled and then Grant Brebner made the game safe with two minutes to go with a sweet volley from a Ray Houghton corner, thereby maintaining his goal-a-game record at the Mad Stad. A week earlier Luton had clinched their place in the second round, coming from behind to beat Oxford 5-4 on aggregate, one of their goals being scored by future Royal, Sean Evers.



## AND FINALLY...

There might have been no Olympic gold for Adam Federici's Australia or Andre Biquey's Cameroon but Reading players have already won no less than four Olympic gold medals. Legendary Reading defender Herbert Smith played in all of England's games (no Team GB in those days) as they won gold in the first Olympic football tournament back in 1908. Daley Thompson may have had a short Reading career (about 53 minutes by my reckoning) but we are still claiming his two decathlon golds.

87 years ago today Reading re-signed another great defender when Ted Hanney returned to his local club after spells away with Manchester City and Coventry. During his first spell at Reading, local born Ted was part of the Great Britain (this time!) squad that retained the Olympic gold in 1912 even though injury in the semis kept him out of the final.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Two record-breaking Reading midfielders were born on 26th August. Jack Lewis, born on this day in 1919 set a league record in 1951/2 when he scored 15 league goals for Reading - more than any other non-forward. A more recent Reading player was Paul Holsgrove, a classy midfielder in the mid-1990s. 39 today, Paul set his record, not with the Royals but with the Royalists of Windsor & Eton. Playing against Heybridge Swifts in a Ryman Premier League game in January 2005, Paul was on the scoresheet in the 3-3 - and Windsor's two other goals were scored by Paul's brothers Peter and Lee.

Other birthday boys include former showjumper Malcolm Pyrah, who is 67 today and author John Buchan who wrote the classic thriller 39 Steps.

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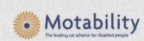
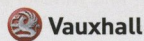
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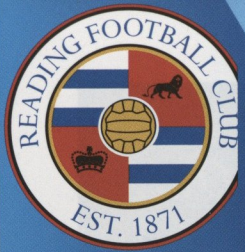
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# READING VS LUTON TOWN



Picture courtesy of the Reading Evening Post

GRANT BREBNER CELEBRATES SCORING THE FIRST EVER GOAL AT MADEJSKI STADIUM - THE FIRST IN A 3-0 WIN AGAINST LUTON TOWN ON SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 1998.

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## OVER THE MOONEY



The Royals completed their second signing of the summer with the capture of 23-year-old striker David Mooney for an undisclosed fee from Cork City last week.

The 6'1" forward, who scored 15 goals in 22 League of Ireland appearances for the Rebel Army this season, signed a three-year contract and will take squad number 12 - the previous two incumbents of that number earned the 'what a bargain' chant so hopefully Mooney can follow in the footsteps of Jamie Cureton and Dave Kitson.

Chairman John Madejski commented, "I am delighted to welcome David to the Club and wish him the best of luck. David fits the bill for the kind of player we like to bring to the Club - young, ambitious and with a great deal of potential that we will help him fulfil. We have successfully nurtured a number of players of a similar profile in recent years, and we hope that David will prove just as successful. I can also confirm that we are actively seeking to further supplement our squad before the transfer window closes."

Mooney currently tops the League of Ireland's scoring charts, having achieved the same feat while at Longford Town last season, when he also won the league's player of the year award and received international recognition with two caps at under-23 level. "I'm delighted to get it done," he said after penning the deal on Wednesday. "It's happened very quickly in the last couple of days and I'm happy to get it finalised. My reputation from Ireland is as a bit of a goalscorer, but I'll work hard for the team and try to create chances for others. There are a lot of Irish lads here, and if I can do half as well as them I'll have done well. But I'm my own man and it will be up to me."

## INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

An alarmingly early international interruption took a number of Royals away from their Hogwood Park training routine last week as they answered their countries' call. Three of our ever-growing Irish contingent were part of the Republic squad that drew 1-1 with Norway in Oslo; Kevin Doyle played the first 63 minutes before being replaced by Daryl Murphy, Stephen Hunt came off the bench to replace Celtic's Aiden McGeady in the second half, and Shane Long was an unused substitute.

Marek Matejovsky's ankle injury unfortunately ruled him out of the Czech Republic's friendly 2-2 draw with England at Wembley, while Ibrahima Sonko was an unused substitute for Senegal as the Lions of Teranga drew 0-0 with Libya in Tripoli. Kalifa Cisse and Jimmy Kebe were in Paris with Mali, who lost 1-0 to Gabon, while our midfielder Emerse Fae, currently on loan at Nice, was in the Ivory Coast squad that beat Guinea 2-1. Simon Church meanwhile came on as a second half substitute in the Welsh under-21 team's 1-0 defeat to Romania.



Official Government Environmental Test Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). New Saab 9-3 Aero Saloon 1.9TTiD (180PS): Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO2 emissions 149g/km.

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AYGO 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 61.4 (4.6). CO2 Emissions 108 g/km.

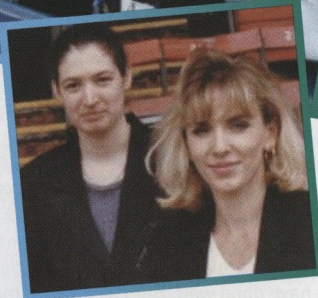
## DEADLINE EXTENSION

The transfer window has been extended by 24 hours, because the anticipated transfer deadline date falls on a Sunday this year. With the window scheduled to close at midnight on 31st August, the Football Association, Premier League and Football League agreed to extend it by one day for the convenience of clubs. So now all business must be concluded by midnight on Monday 1st September 2008. Similar arrangements will also apply in January 2009, when the 31st falls on a Saturday!



## TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

In this special anniversary issue, it's only right that we recognise the staff who have worked at Madejski Stadium since its birth ten years ago.



Graeme Murty, in his testimonial year of course, is the only player to have completed ten years of service, while Kevin Dillon has been part of the coaching set-up since our arrival at Madejski Stadium. The board remains the same – Chairman John Madejski, Chief Executive Nigel Howe and Director Ian Wood-Smith – and many of their staff also celebrate ten years of service to the Club. Bryan Stabler, Andy West, Sue Hewett, Ray Booth, Jackie Evans, Simon Hunt, Ron Grant, Richard McCoull, Eileen Sweetman, Elaine New, Grace Kearney, Mike Kearney, Eileen Sweetman, Fred Neate, Viv Neate, Ray Ilsley, Margaret Kietluczki, Carol Moss, Sandra Phillips, Mike Rooke, David Downs and Jayne Rapson all remain on the payroll. We thank them all for their fantastic loyalty and efforts.

Association, he still helps out with the reserve team on their travels, and a young Sara Jacob stood beside a model of Madejski Stadium answering questions on the building of the new base during the summer of 1998 before rising through the ranks to become a Marketing Executive at the Club.

The list could, of course, go on as there remain countless stewards, catering employees, programme sellers, hostesses and other part-time staff and volunteers who have dedicated much of their working life and no little spare time to this football club, for which we are exceptionally grateful.

Mentions must also go to other members of staff who were here to see it all start in 1998 – Nick Hammond was in the squad photo in 1998/9 as a goalkeeper and now he is Director of Football at Reading; assistant kit manager Selby Armstrong spent many years as Kingsley before finding his role assisting the first team; Richard Wickson has been a volunteer for a long time and, as President of the Ex-Players

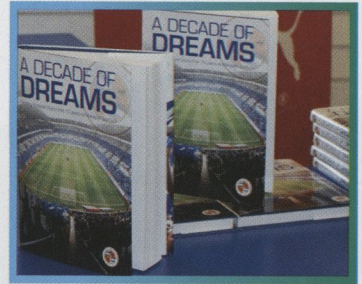


## 'DECADE OF DREAMS' LAUNCH

On Friday, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the first ever game at Madejski Stadium with Graeme Murty attending a book signing at the Madejski Stadium Megastore. To mark the ten-year anniversary, the Club has published a new book entitled 'A Decade Of Dreams', which chronicles our first ten years at the stadium.

The Royals skipper was joined by the book's authors Mark Bradley and Andy West, the Club's Publications Manager and Head of Communications respectively, who signed copies for those who had braved the Reading Festival traffic to make it to the stadium on its official birthday.

(which will be attended by Chairman John Madejski between 4.30-6pm on Friday 29th August) are also set to take place. The 256-page read, priced at £16.99, is available now in the Royals Megastore!



Murts will also be in the Megastore tomorrow for a second signing session – so make sure you are at Madejski Stadium between 3-4pm to get your copy signed. Subsequent signing sessions in 'Chapter One' bookshop in Woodley (between 3-4pm on Monday 1st September) and WH Smith in Broad Street

## HOLIDAY CLUB

Reading Football Club have teamed up with Thomas Cook to launch the official Royals Holiday Club. Book your holiday through the Royals Holiday Club and you can claim a guaranteed discount simply for being a Royals fan. Your discount is valid on your summer and winter package holiday, city break, cruise, worldwide adventure or a weekend away in the UK. You can even save when you book a hotel for an away fixture! And to make the offer even better, every time you make a booking Reading FC will benefit from a contribution generated by Thomas Cook. This comes at no additional cost to you as a supporter, so simply pop in to your local Thomas Cook or Going Places store and ask for your Royals discount. Alternatively visit <http://reading.thomascooksport.com>

## ROYALS ON LOAN

Promising forward Hal Robson-Kanu has rejoined League One side Southend United on loan. The 19-year-old penned a month-long deal at Roots Hall, where he helped the Shrimpers reach the playoff semi-finals in the latter stages of last season. He made 6(+2) appearances for Steve Tilson's men, scoring three goals. The England under-19 international has just recovered from a hamstring problem and, after featuring in our reserves' 3-0 win at Southampton last week, will be hoping to impress in Essex. He joins a list of five Reading players currently out on loan – Alan Bennett joins season-long loanee Ben Hamer at Brentford until early September, while Scott Davies will play for Aldershot this season and Emerse Fae is at Nice.

## MURTS LINES UP CELTIC CLASH

The Royals will play Scottish giants Celtic in May 2009 as the showpiece event of captain Graeme Murty's testimonial year. The match against Gordon Strachan's team will be the culmination of a series of fundraising events for our Scotland international skipper, who will donate a portion of the proceedings to Swings and Smiles, a recreational facility for special needs children. The specific date for the fixture is yet to be confirmed, but a number of other events have already been inked in:

**Tuesday 14th October,** Race Night, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Reading

**Tuesday 18th November,** Ten Pin Bowling Night, Lakeside Super Bowl, Thatcham

**Wednesday 21st January,** Burns Night Supper, Madejski Stadium

**Wednesday 18th March,** Go Karting Grand Prix, Premier Karting, Woodley

**Wednesday 15th April,** Golf Day, Donnington Grove, Newbury

**Wednesday 1st July,** Ex-Players Golf Day, Sandford Springs, Kingsclere

For more details or to book a place on any of these events, see Graeme's testimonial website [www.graememurtytestimonial.com](http://www.graememurtytestimonial.com)



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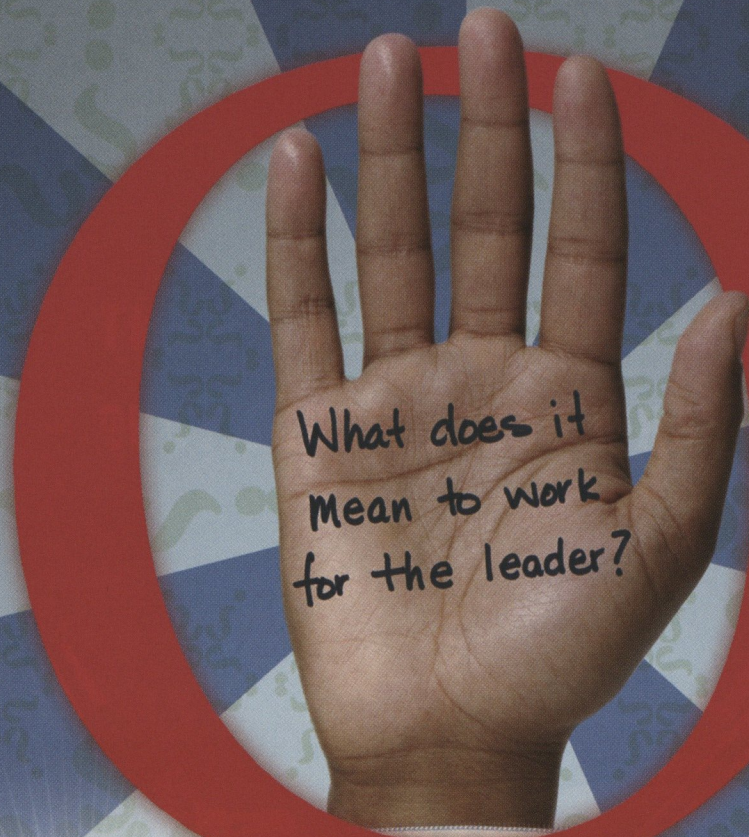
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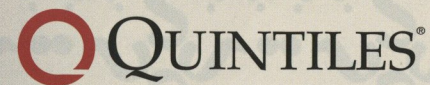
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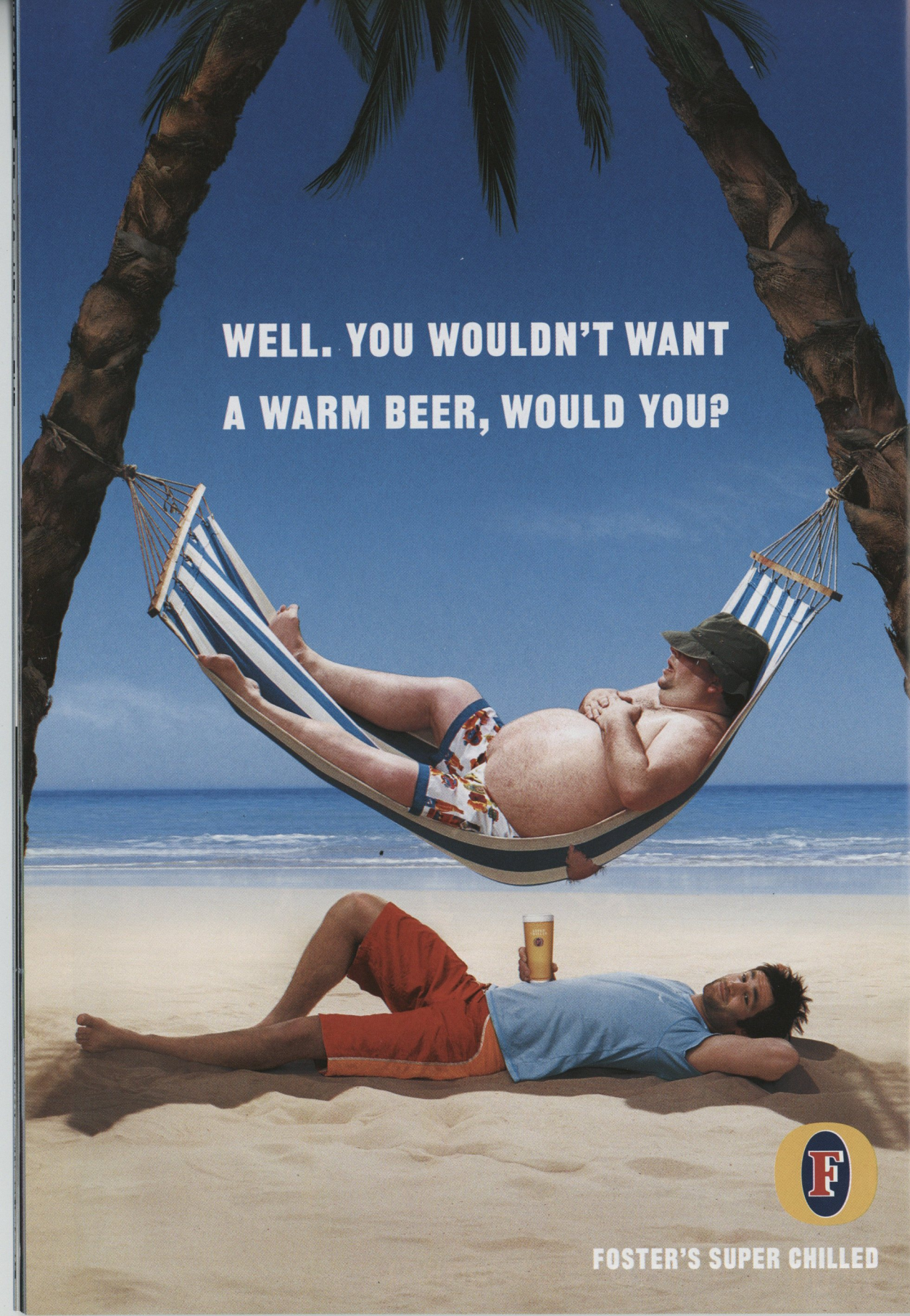


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## MADEJSKI MOMENTS

# THE LEAGUE CUP

During a fantastic first decade spent at Madejski Stadium, Reading have played a total of 15 League Cup clashes – winning five outright, one more after extra time and two on penalties. During those ten years, the furthest Reading have reached is the Fourth Round in 2003/4 and then again in 2005/6, but 38 goals have been scored on this hallowed turf in that time and the last two ties have proved to be excellent value for money – six-goal thrillers entertaining Madejski Stadium crowds in 2006/7 and 2007/8.

### 26.08.98 READING 2 (CASKEY 40 (PEN), BREBNER 88) PETERBOROUGH UNITED 0

It all began exactly ten years ago today – in the second match Madejski Stadium ever hosted. Still feeling the adrenaline rush of a 3-0 win over Luton on the opening afternoon, Tommy Burns' men coasted to a two-goal win over Peterborough with goals from skipper Darren Caskey and Grant Brebner late on. The victory gave Reading a 3-1 win on aggregate and a Second Round two-legged tie against Barnsley.

### 23.09.98 READING 1 (CASKEY 90 (PEN)) BARNLSLEY 1 (WARD 85)

Sadly a 3-0 defeat at Oakwell seriously dented any hopes Reading had of causing an upset; Jan-Aage Fjortoft's brace accompanied a Darren Barnard goal in the first leg. The Royals still managed a very creditable 1-1 draw when their Championship opponents travelled to Berkshire weeks later, but another Caskey spotkick wasn't enough to send Reading through.

### 11.08.99 READING 0 PETERBOROUGH UNITED 0

A goalless draw at Madejski Stadium proved enough to knock 'Posh' out of the competition for the second successive season; a 2-1 win at Peterborough, who included the likes of soon to be Spurs-bound Matthew Etherington and Simon Davies, earning Reading a two-legged tie with top flight Bradford City in the Second Round.

### 22.09.99 READING 2 (SCOTT 9, HUNTER 98) BRADFORD CITY 2 (SAUNDERS 73, WETHERALL 108)

Bizarrely Tommy Burns' last game in charge of Reading came in an impressive 1-1 draw at Valley Parade, so Alan Pardew was caretaker boss for the visit of the Bantams. And it all looked rosy when Keith Scott, not known for his nimble footwork, sensationally skipped inside from the left wing and curled an exquisite 9th minute opener to send the crowd wild. Dean Saunders equalised with 17 minutes remaining and the tie went into extra time. Reading were more than matching their high-profile opponents and again took the lead through Barry Hunter. But Pardew's men couldn't hang on and David Wetherall got the equaliser that sent City through on away goals.

### 05.09.00 READING 0 LEYTON ORIENT 2 (BRKOVIC 51, CHRISTIE 63)

Jamie Cureton had helped Reading get a 1-1 draw at Brisbane Road in the first leg of the Worthington Cup First Round, but a forgettable Madejski Stadium encounter with Orient the following month saw the Royals bow out to second half goals from Ahmet Brkovic and Iyesden Christie.

## 21.08.01 READING 4 (HENDERSON 38, 90, PARKINSON 45, SMITH 51) LUTON TOWN 0

The Hatters were again the visitors to Madejski Stadium in the opening round of the competition in 2001/2. Reading, fielding a very young side, romped to a four-goal victory with goals from Phil Parkinson, Alex Smith and a brace from Darius Henderson – the young striker's first goals for the club. The game was also notable for Nicky Shorey's debut.



## 11.09.01 READING 0 WEST HAM UNITED 0 (READING WIN 6-5 ON PENALTIES)

A clash with top flight West Ham was Reading's reward – but an enthralling encounter and a dramatic end was somewhat overshadowed by events on the other side of the Atlantic earlier in the day. September 11th 2001 will only ever be remembered for the horrifying terrorist attacks that took place in the US, but a very shell-shocked crowd tried, though largely failed, to focus on the football. Goalless the game remained and the tie went to penalties. James Harper's 12-yarder was saved by former Royals stopper Shaka Hislop but Jermain Defoe crashed his following effort against the woodwork, and when Scott Minto's kick was saved by Phil Whitehead it was left to Adi Viveash to calmly stroke the 14th penalty home.



That famous win earned Reading a trip to Villa Park next – where Dion Dublin's goal, scored on the stroke of half time, separated the sides and knocked the Royals out. And Reading fell at the first hurdle in 2002/3 – Dave Kitson scored to secure Cambridge United a 3-1 win on Matthew Upson's goalscoring full debut for Reading.

In 2003/4, two 3-1 away victories against Boston (Nicky Forster grabbing a brace and Steve Sidwell also getting his name on the scoresheet) and then, under the caretaker managership of Kevin Dillon, Oxford in the Second Round (John Salako starting proceedings before Forster and James Harper weighed in with more) set up a home tie with Huddersfield.

## 28.10.03 READING 1 (FORSTER 83) HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 0

These wins brought Huddersfield to Madejski Stadium, for Steve Coppell's first Carling Cup game in charge of Reading. A tight contest was eventually decided by a Nicky Forster header – the Royals strike star finally escaping the shackles of Efe Sodje to separate the sides.

## 03.12.03 READING 0 CHELSEA 1 (HASSELBANK 57)

And what a reward! Claudio Ranieri brought superstars to Madejski Stadium for the first time as his Chelsea side challenged the Royals for a place in the Fifth Round. A new attendance record was set – 24,107 swarming into the stands for the cup tie – and they were richly entertained. Carlo Cudicini had to push a Bas Savage header onto the crossbar, but in truth, Marcus Hahnemann was the busier of the two keepers and the US stopper made some wonderful saves from Frank Lampard, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Hernan Crespo. Hasselbaink did beat Hahnemann for the only goal of the game, but Madejski Stadium had been offered a tantalising taste of top tier football.



## 21.09.04 READING 0 WATFORD 3

(COX 14 PEN, BOUAZZA 90, INGIMARSSON OG 90)

The following season, Shaun Goater and Andy Hughes sealed another comfortable win at Oxford in the opening round, but Watford outplayed the Royals at Madejski Stadium in the Second Round to stroll through.



## 23.08.05 READING 3 (KITSON 14, 95, LITA 114) SWANSEA CITY 1 (AKINFENWA 80)

## 20.09.05 READING 1 (OSTER 80) LUTON TOWN 0



## 25.10.05 READING 2 (KITSON 54, 75) SHEFFIELD UNITED 0

In 2005/6, a mini cup run was only apt considering the free-flowing football the Royals produced. And three home wins were secured with little fuss. Swansea proved stern opposition and took advantage of Reading's inability to close out the game by taking the tie into extra time – Adebayo Akinfenwa cancelling out Kitson's 14th minute opener. But Ijah Anderson saw red before the extra 30 minutes could begin and Kitson and Leroy Lita made sure the ten men were made to pay.



A high-flying Luton side were drawn away to Reading the following month, but John Oster scored his first for the club with a free kick that drifted through a host of bodies and inside Dean Brill's left upright. Then Reading's closest rivals for the Championship title, Sheffield United, were confidently dispatched by a Dave Kitson brace in October – to set up an historic trip to Arsenal in Highbury's final season. There, somewhat unsurprisingly, a phenomenal 23-game unbeaten streak came to an end – the Royals undone by the pace and panache of Wenger's young guns as Jose Antonio Reyes, Robin Van Persie and Arturo Lupoli slotted the all-important goals past Graham Stack.

## 19.09.06 READING 3 (LITA 31, 35, MATE 86) DARLINGTON 3 (JOHNSON 19 PEN, JOACHIM 34, 52) (READING WIN 4-2 ON PENALTIES)

Reading, as a top flight side for the first time, were given a bye into the Second Round and were handed a home tie against Darlington. Julian Joachim rolled back the years to give Reading a serious scare, but two goals from

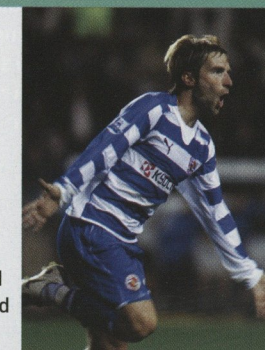
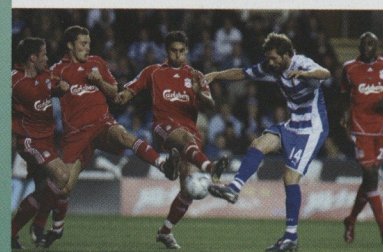


Leroy Lita pegged the lower-leaguers back and a controversial Peter Mate close range effort (that seemed to be directed over the line by the Hungarian's hand) sent the game into extra time and penalties. Andre Bikey fired home the winning spotkick and sealed the Royals their first ever trip to Anfield – where Liverpool just triumphed in a seven-goal thriller.



## 25.09.07 READING 2 (CONVEY 28, HALLS 64) LIVERPOOL 4 (BENAYOUN 23, TORRES 50, 72, 86)

Lita's extra time winner at Swansea in the Second Round earned Reading a home tie against Rafa Benitez's Liverpool side last season, but the Reds triumphed once again. Twice Reading had fought back with Bobby Convey and John Halls strikes, but the Reds' multi-million pound striker eventually proved the difference; Fernando Torres fired a second half hat-trick to send Liverpool through.





# At home with **ELM PARK**

**When Elm Park closed its doors for the last time on the 3rd May 1998 – after 102 years of footballing history – many thought that would be the last anyone would see of its fixtures and fittings. However, on one day in September 1998 the very essence of Elm Park was auctioned off, giving a loyal band of long-time supporters a rare chance to snap up their own piece of the Club's history.**

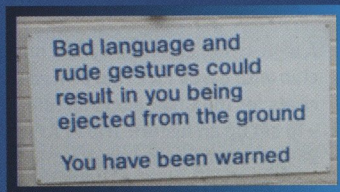


Ten years after Elm Park's terraces were cleared for the last time, following the last ever league match - a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Norwich City, we celebrate the anniversary of a magnificent day in Reading Football Club's history – the opening of Madejski Stadium and a match against Luton Town on 22nd August 1998. But in all Madejski Stadium's glory, it's worth remembering what Elm Park meant and tracing those squares of turf, the age-old signs, the pilfered safety barriers, seats and turnstiles.



Richard Wickson, president of the RFC Ex-Players Association, is one such proud hoarder. "I purchased the turnstile to 'E' stand at a cost of £75 at that auction," he told today's official matchday programme. "After it was sandblasted and repainted, it stood proudly in my lounge, acting as a bar! Ex-players and good friends Gordon Neate, Mike Kearney and the late Maurice Evans were the first guests to drink at the bar.

"After decorating the lounge, the turnstile no longer matched the decor, so my wife informed me that I had a choice! Either the turnstile would have to be put out into the wood shed...or she would leave me! I do miss the wife." Several other items share space outside on the patio in Richard's Sonning Common home. A sign proclaiming "The use of bad language and rude gestures could result in you being ejected from the ground – you have been warned!" sits above the commemorative plaque –



which was presented to the Club by Minister of Sport, Colin Moynihan MP, to honour the launch of the South Bank Membership enclosure on the 4th May 1988.

And when relaxing and enjoying a barbecue, Richard can sit at ease on one of the re-claimed seats that once adorned the main stand on Norfolk Road – the seat numbers 03, 05 and 98 commemorate the day, month and year when the Elm Park gates closed for the last time.

**// After decorating the lounge, the turnstile no longer matched the decor, so my wife informed me that I had a choice! Either the turnstile would have to be put out into the wood shed. .or she would leave me! I do miss the wife //**

# **ELM PARK**

Mad keen Royals fan, Alan Bunce, also tells us of his little piece of Elm Park memorabilia. "I've been a Reading fan for more than 40 years and was a regular on the Town End terraces at Elm Park. In fact, that's where my Dad first introduced me to the game and to Reading FC. When Elm Park closed in 1998, and us fans were given an opportunity to purchase a piece of the old ground, it seemed most appropriate and fitting that I should take home one of the crush barriers that I might have once stood behind with my dad." The crush barrier [pictured with David's son leaning against it] now stands proudly in Alan's garden in Caversham Park Village. "I have thought about bringing the TV out into the garden and watching a live match from my barrier – just to give me that authentic feeling!" Alan explained.



Tilehurst's Anne Griffiths also clings to some Elm Park memories. "During my early years and throughout my teens I would go along to Elm Park with my dad and my older brother. As other things in my life became all important I stopped going regularly, but when I heard that the Club were moving on, away from Elm Park, I wanted to retain some of those early memories.

"When my brother informed my dad and I that the Club were selling off pieces of the hallowed turf, I felt I just needed to purchase a sod! I did so at the auction and I planted it in my back garden so I can always reminisce. It still thrives today. My dad purchased some too, but that was only to replace a piece of grass damaged by the constant stream of feet across the lawn!"

Visitors to Emmer Green, home to former STAR Chairman Gerry McGreevy, are left in no doubt as which direction to take. The sign declaring 'Away Supporters' was once prominent at the entrance to the South Bank turnstiles from the Tilehurst Road, directing visiting fans to the 'Town End' terraces. Now Mr McGreevy has it installed.



Loyal Royals fan Kevin Marshall purchased the turnstile that he and his brother David had passed through before virtually every home match since Kevin's first match in 1966. The turnstile, from the main stand on Norfolk Road, is now a prominent feature as a bar on the patio of his Caversham Park Village home. Since leaving Elm Park, the turnstile has done a few miles. "It's become part of the family home, but we have moved house three times over the years and it's travelled along with us", Kevin told us. "The thing weighs a tonne!" he admitted. "I've got to give a big thanks to the wife – she's the one that has given it a regular paint job over the years."



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# the way WE WERE

Reading (1) 3-0 (0) Luton Town  
 Nationwide League Division Two  
 Saturday 22nd August 1998

By David Downs

Page sponsored by  
**RFC EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
 www.exroyals.co.uk



Stuart Hall introduces the first match at Madejski Stadium

It was almost exactly ten years before tonight's Carling Cup tie that Reading met this evening's opponents, Luton Town, in the first match played at Madejski Stadium.

It had been hoped that the new, purpose-built, all-seater stadium would be ready for the start of the 1998/9 season, but delays in the £37m building programme meant Reading had to play their first three fixtures away from home. This worked to the Royals' advantage as there was more time

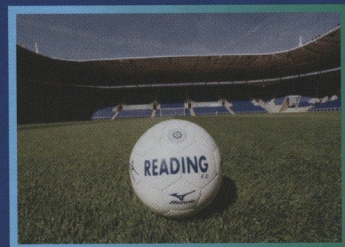
available to plan the opening ceremony, introduced by BBC commentator Stuart Hall. There was a marching display by the band of the Royal Wessex Volunteers (Territorial Army), skydivers landing on the pitch with the matchball, thousands of celebratory balloons, a parade of former players, and most poignantly of all, a scattering of grass cuttings from the Club's former home, Elm Park, in the centre circle by veteran supporter Tommy Bartholemew.

All this took place before the scheduled 3pm kick-off on a warm, sunny afternoon, and it was soon clear that the weather, as well as the attraction of the new stadium, was going to test the 25,000 capacity. Indeed the start had to be delayed for fifteen minutes to allow latecomers to take their seats, but once the game got underway, Reading's players set about recording their first victory of the campaign.

The fans could not have asked for a better performance on this historic opening day, and after Ray Houghton had fired inches

over the bar, the first goal came in the 11th minute. Houghton was involved again, taking a right wing corner which was flicked on by Elroy Kromheer at the near post to Mass Sarr. He laid the ball back to Grant Brebner, who crashed an unstoppable volley past Luton goalkeeper Kelvin Davis from close range.

The action switched to the other end where Peter van der Kwaak saved smartly from Luton's Liam George, who had substituted for the injured Paul McLaren. Reading's keeper also made good stops from Steve Davis and Ray McKinnon, the latter having also been introduced as a substitute by the visitors after Dwight Marshall had been sidelined with a back problem.



The beautiful stage is set

Luton were enjoying at least an equal share of the play, but seemed to lack composure in the penalty area when chances presented themselves, and the interval came with Reading holding onto their 1-0 advantage.

That lead was doubled six minutes into the second half with a goal fit to grace any stadium. A quick counter-attack from inside their own half saw Reading switch the ball quickly between Brebner, Darren Caskey and Houghton before the Irish international found Sarr. The Liberian striker, recently signed by manager Tommy Burns for £158,000 from Hadjuk Split, rolled the ball into the path of Jimmy McIntyre, who shot past Davis from fifteen yards.

Sarr was proving to be the star of the show and almost got on the scoresheet himself, forcing Davis to tip over a full-blooded drive. Soon afterwards however he was forced to retire through injury, as was McIntyre, though their substitutes did little to affect the course of the game.

The three points were secured for the Royals six minutes from time with a third goal. Caskey and Houghton, running the midfield almost as they wished, combined to set up Robert Fleck, who had ample time to pick his spot before smashing the ball into the net.

The score remained 3-0 in Reading's favour, and the verdict of the home fans was that the performance had been as smart and well-organised as the new Madejski Stadium. The only confusion centred on the actual attendance figure. A glitch in the computerised entry system meant that the official attendance was given as an estimated 18,000, whilst the small number of unoccupied seats suggested that a more accurate figure would be nearer 22,000.

None of the Reading squad are still with the Club, but an absentee through a knee injury was Graeme Murty, recruited from York City a couple of weeks previously, and who will enjoy a testimonial game against Glasgow Celtic later this season.

**READING:**  
 Van der Kwaak; Bernal (Booty 42), Gray, Brebner, Primus, Kromheer, Houghton, Caskey, McIntyre (Fleck 61), Reilly, Sarr (Williams 70).

**LUTON TOWN:**  
 K Davis; Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S Davis, White, McLaren (McKinnon 17), Evers, Douglas (Thomas 61), Gray, Marshall (George 10).

**Referee:** Rob Styles (Waterlooville)

**Attendance:** 18,108

**Tommy Burns all time!**  
 Having led the Royals after 34 seasons, and a record 12 years in the second half and nearly 40 years with a total of 61 seasons from 1888, Tommy Burns was the longest serving manager in the history of the club.

**THE LINE-UP**

1	pelor van der kwaak
2	andy bernal
3	stuart gray
4	grant brebner
5	elroy kromheer
6	darren caskey
7	ray houghton
8	clayton caskey
9	jimmy mcintyre
10	mark reilly
11	mass sarr
12	martyn booty
13	martin williams
14	robert fleck

**action replay**  
 READING 3  
 LUTON TOWN 0

**celebrations as the Royals score for the first time at Madejski**

**Tommy Burns all time!**

**Looking for the first goal Bernal**

**McIntyre sees his effort**

**That's mine - Rob**

A short match report from the subsequent matchday programme

the best teams



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## PART ONE

NAME THAT TEAM

The goalscorers snatched the headlines but fans sometimes forget that Dutch goalkeeper Peter Van der Kwaak made a stunning double save to preserve the Royals lead in the first half of Madejski Stadium's curtain-raiser against Luton in 1998. Can you name the ten men who lined up in front of him on that historic day?

## PART THREE

FIVE TO FIND

Grant Brenber bagged the first ever goal at Madejski Stadium ten years ago, but can you FIND THE FIVE names of the first visiting players to notch at Reading's new home?

M	E	V	I	I	T	E	B	Y	I	D	F
T	N	O	T	O	L	D	E	R	R	N	P
T	T	P	T	T	W	I	S	A	Y	R	A
P	A	Y	T	O	N	U	W	E	T	A	M
S	E	I	A	F	U	G	M	L	K	E	N
E	H	D	D	A	H	U	I	O	O	N	R
W	E	H	U	A	E	D	E	F	A	S	A
T	T	N	G	I	U	I	H	T	Y	T	H
E	S	W	A	O	I	F	G	T	I	I	O
N	T	E	O	Y	P	E	E	A	E	W	D
D	I	T	T	F	R	S	D	D	N	I	D
L	T	U	N	T	E	T	I	R	O	T	L

Hidden words: Payton (Burnley), Duguid (Colchester), Ward (Barnsley), Whittle (Stoke), Bryan (Blackpool)

**THE ANSWERS**  
[PART ONE] NAME THAT TEAM: Van der Kwaak, Bernal, Gray, Krombier, Primus, Brebner, Caskey, Houghton, Kelly, Sarr, McIntyre. [PART TWO] WHO'S THE BOSS? Barry Fry - the second manager to visit Madejski Stadium. MAN IN BLACK: Rob Styles - the referee here ten years ago. NAME TO A FACE: Eric Sodje - ex-Luton man and brother of Royals centre back Sami TRUE COLOURS: Coventry City. [PART FOUR] MADEJSKI MOMENT: Reading 1-3 Manchester City. 1999: Shaun Goater 2, Terry Cooke, Keith Scott.

# THE QUIZ

## PART TWO

Can you name the man in charge, the player pictured and match the kit to its owners?

WHO'S THE BOSS? MAN IN BLACK



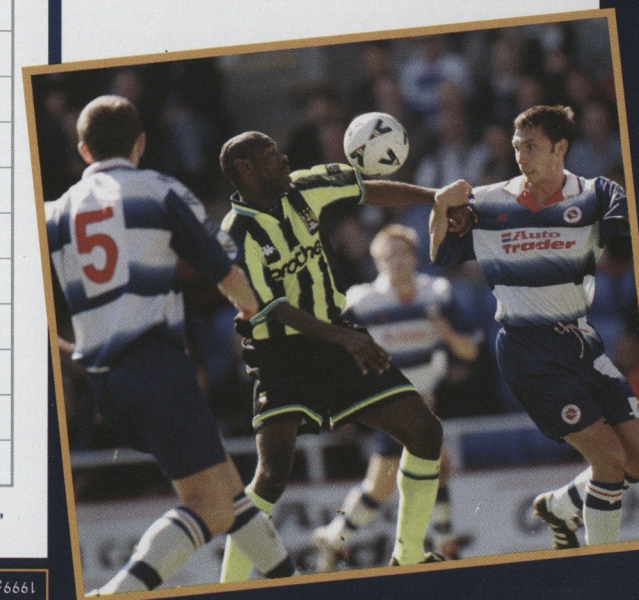
NAME TO A FACE TRUE COLOURS



## PART FOUR

MADEJSKI MOMENT

We celebrate 10 years at Madejski Stadium this season - but how well do you remember our decade of dreams? Can you name the year this picture was taken, the score between the two teams and the scorers in the match?





## Opening Hours

Normal Ticket Office opening hours are as follows:

**Monday to Friday: 10am-6pm**

**Saturday (non-matchdays): 9am-12pm**

**Saturday (matchdays): 9am-half time in person; 9am-12pm by phone**

**Sunday (non-matchdays): closed**

**Sunday (matchdays): depending on kick-off time**

Please note that the Ticket Office sells tickets for both Reading FC and London Irish games. Visit [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk) for a full list of events at the stadium to ensure your visit is not timed to coincide with another event, and use this list of stadium fixtures to decide when to call to buy tickets. The busiest times are first thing in the morning, lunchtime and two days prior to games.

## Availability of tickets

Tickets for home and away games are made available on a Royalty Points basis, which are accumulated by buying tickets for games using a Member Card. If you do not have a Member Card then you can register online or call the Sales Centre on 0844 249 1871. Cards cost £2 for adults and £1 for concessions.

## Buying tickets

You can use three methods to buy tickets, assuming you have the required Royalty Points for the tickets you want:

- In the official online ticketing service at [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk)
- By phone on 0844 249 1871 - (see opening hours above)
- In person at Madejski Stadium - (see opening hours above)

This season we have launched a new and improved online ticketing service, allowing supporters to choose individual seats and see a view of the pitch from each block before making a purchase.

## How to change your season ticket seat

You can change your season ticket seat **ONLY** if you are buying tickets for other people and you want to sit with them. The other people must have the required number of Royalty Points for the game. Contact the Ticket Office at least seven days in advance of the match.

To upgrade a concession season ticket for a specific game, contact the Ticket Office with the customer number on the concession Member Card. Pay the appropriate fee and this concession Member Card can now be used by an adult. Maximum three times per season.

## Matchday reprints of cards/tickets

If your season ticket or Member Card has been mislaid please contact the Ticket Office in advance by emailing [memberservices@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@readingfc.co.uk) or telephoning 0844 249 1871. This should be done at least 48 hours in advance of the matchday.

Paper match tickets - anyone forgetting their match tickets will have to wait until kick off for a reprint and in addition will have to complete a reprint request form giving the necessary details. The credit/debit card used to book the tickets must also be produced. A reprint will only be done if the original ticket has not been used to enter the stadium. The reprint charge is £2 adults / £1 concessions per paper match ticket.

Season tickets & Member Cards - anyone forgetting their season ticket or Member Card is able to get a reprint, however you will be asked to wait until kick off has taken place. The card will be

checked to ensure that no-one has entered the stadium with that Season Ticket / Member Card. The reprint charge is £10 adults and £3 concessions per card and the original card/s will be cancelled. The new card/s will have the same Customer Number as before. Your old card should then be destroyed.

## Match ticket prices

On a matchday, prices are £4 more each.

Please note all ages for the purpose of purchasing tickets will be as of 1st August 2008.

	LOWER WEST, EAST, NORTH & SOUTH STANDS	UPPER WEST STAND
ADULT	£23	£26
65 and over	£17	£18
17-21	£17	£18
16 and under	£12	£13

## Tickets currently on sale

Tickets for the following home matches are now on general sale.

**Reading v Crystal Palace**  
Saturday 30th August 2008  
3pm, Madejski Stadium

**Reading v Sheffield Wednesday**  
Tuesday 16th September 2008  
8pm, Madejski Stadium

**Reading v Swansea City**  
Saturday 27th September 2008  
3pm, Madejski Stadium

Tickets for these three games are on general sale to all Member Card holders now.

## Current ticket offers

**PALACE £1 FOR YOUNG ROYALS**

Young Royals members can buy a ticket for just £1 for the Crystal Palace game on Saturday 30th August. If you are a Young Royal but already have your seat for this game with your season ticket, you

can buy a £1 ticket for a friend aged 16 or under. To purchase, call 0844 249 1871 or visit the Madejski Stadium Ticket Office in person. This offer is not available online and will end on Wednesday 27th August. One ticket per Young Royal, subject to availability.

If you are not yet a Young Royal you can sign up and purchase your £1 ticket today.

Go to [www.readingfc.co.uk/youngroyals](http://www.readingfc.co.uk/youngroyals) for details on our fantastic junior supporters club.

## Parking & Travel

### Matchday parking

On a matchday, limited overflow parking is available at the stadium for £8. The vast majority of spaces are reserved for parking yearly permit holders. Yearly permits are sold out but if you would like to join the waiting list please contact the Ticket Office on 0844 249 1871 / [memberservices@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@readingfc.co.uk)

Permit holders please note that permits are also valid for all cup games, but you must arrive 15 minutes before kick off, or we reserve the right to re-allocate the space.

The Millennium Madejski Hotel car park is only available to hotel guests on a matchday.

Disabled parking at Madejski Stadium has been pre-booked for the season. If you would like to join the waiting list contact the Ticket Office on 0844 249 1871 / [memberservices@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@readingfc.co.uk). A limited number of spaces are available on match day within the orange car park. These spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis to drivers with a valid blue disabled badge at a cost of £8. Any queries should be directed to Customer Service on 0118 968 1211 and not the Ticket Office.

Nearby parking is available as follows:

- Foster Wheeler, Shinfield Park, 500 spaces

Free to park with a short bus ride to and from the stadium. Fares on return bus shuttle are £3.50 adult return and £2 child return.

- Worton Grange, formerly HP Invent, 1000 spaces

£8 per car, seven minutes walk to the Stadium.

- Greyhound Stadium, 500 spaces

Invent, 1000 spaces

£8 per car, three minutes walk to the stadium.

- Terranova Crane, Bennet Road, 200 spaces

£10 per car. Five minutes walk to the stadium.

Town Centre car parks  
Parking available within town centre car parks (appropriate parking fee applies). Reading Station return shuttle buses depart from stop SQ Buses - frequent service starts two hours prior to kick off. £3.50 adult and £2 child return.

Car safety

Reading police are concerned with vehicle related crime around the Madejski Stadium area on matchdays. You can help reduce the chances of your car being broken into by removing all unnecessary property before setting out on your journey. Remember an empty car is a safer car.

## Bus services

A wide range of matchday bus services will be running to Madejski Stadium again this season. The vast majority of services are unchanged from last season, but service 73A from Riseley has been discontinued due to low passenger levels, services 950 and 951 have merged, along with 954 and 955.

Full timetables and fare details are available on [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk) or from Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (calls cost 10p per minute from a BT landline).

**The full list of services available is:**

- 70 Sonning Common - Emmer Green
- 71 Emmer Green - Caversham Church Street
- 71A Emmer Green - Caversham Library
- 72 Woodley - Three Tuns
- 72A Twyford - Charvil - Woodley - Earley
- 72B Woodley Airfield - Bulmershe Sports Centre
- 73 Lower Earley - Christchurch Green
- 74 Caversham Park - Star Inn
- 74A Henley-on-Thames - Dunsden Green - Star Inn
- 75 Purley - Tilehurst Triangle - Southcote Road
- 75A Pangbourne - Goodliffe Gardens - Southcote Road
- 76 Tilehurst Circular - Sutherland Grove
- 76A Tilehurst Circular - Waverley Road
- 77 Shinfield Park (Park & Ride Shuttle)
- 78 Newbury Bus Station - Thatcham - Woolhampton
- 79 Reading Station (Shuttle)
- 951 Basingstoke - Tadley - Mortimer - Burghfield Common
- 952 Farnborough - Yateley - Sandhurst - Crowthorne
- 953 Wokingham - Winnersh
- 954 Bracknell

## PORTMAN ROAD 13/09/2008



### IPSWICH TOWN

**Saturday 13th September**  
**Kick-off 3pm**

Ticket pricing and selling information will be available soon. Tickets will be sold on a Royalty Points basis – please see [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk) and local press for more details.

Our last visit to Portman Road saw the Royals claim a memorable 3-0 victory during our 2005/6 promotion campaign, with goals from Steve Sidwell, Kevin Doyle and Leroy Lita.

#### COACH TRAVEL

STAR's coaches will depart from Station Hill at 9.45am (coaches 4 and 5 only) and from Madejski Stadium at 10am. Seats are priced at £15 and are on sale from STAR now.



## VICARAGE ROAD 20/09/2008



### WATFORD

**Saturday 20th September**  
**Kick-off 3pm**

Ticket pricing and selling information will be available soon. Tickets will be sold on a Royalty Points basis – please see [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk) and local press for more details.

We last visited Vicarage Road midway through our first Premier League season in December 2006, when a hard-fought encounter ended with the points being shared after a 0-0 draw.

#### COACH TRAVEL

STAR's coaches will depart from Station Hill at midday (coaches 4 and 5 only) and Madejski Stadium at 12.15pm. Seats are priced at £10 and will go on sale from STAR on 30th August.



## MOLINEUX 30/09/2008



### WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

**Tuesday 30th September**  
**Kick-off 7.45pm**

Ticket pricing and selling information will be available soon. Tickets will be sold on a Royalty Points basis – please see [readingfc.co.uk](http://readingfc.co.uk) and local press for more details.

Bobby Convey and Dave Kitson were on the scoresheet when we last visited Molineux on Boxing Day 2005, helping the Royals to an extremely impressive 2-0 victory in our promotion campaign.

#### COACH TRAVEL

STAR's coaches will depart from Madejski Stadium at 3pm and Station Hill at 3.15pm (coaches 4 and 5 only). Seats will be priced at £15 and will be on sale from STAR on 16th September.



#### BUYING AWAY TICKETS

Away game tickets can be bought by telephoning 0844 249 1871, visiting the Ticket Office in person or by fax. See pages 48-49 for opening hours. Please note it is now possible to buy away tickets online.

Away tickets purchased from Madejski Stadium cannot be collected from away grounds. This does not affect any pay on the day games.

#### BOOKING COACH TRAVEL

All away coach travel is organised by the Supporters' Trust at Reading, STAR.

Bookings will be taken on match days in the STAR HQ behind the East Stand, opposite Gate 7. STAR will be open before the match, at half time (access only to those in the East Stand) and after the game. The HQ is also usually open for bookings on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm-9pm but please check the website ([www.star-reading.org](http://www.star-reading.org)) for updates on opening hours.

Only STAR members are allowed to travel on the coaches. Members will be required to produce their membership card when both booking the coach and when boarding prior to travel. Anyone not in possession of a valid membership card may be prevented from travelling. Members may book for groups but, at the time of booking, must be in possession of the membership cards relating to those in the group.

Under 14's/18's Policy: STAR will run a designated coach for those under 18 years old and travelling without an adult. This is Coach 5. Only this coach will allow under 18s to travel alone so you must request this coach when making your booking and remember spaces will therefore be limited. Each steward has been CRB checked and has attended the Reading FC Child protection programme.

Please also note that you must be at least 14 years of age to travel on Coach 5 alone or with another minor, if you're under 14 you must be accompanied by someone aged 18+ to travel with STAR.

Station Hill Policy: Coach 4 is designated as Station Hill coach, only this coach will pick up and drop off at the station. Members must state this is the coach they want when booking. All other coaches will depart only from Madejski Stadium and will not go to the station other than the under 18's Coach 5 if required.

The STAR enquiry line for travel is 07919 931716 – please note it is not possible to book on this number.

## STARTING RECORD IN 2008/9

	LGE	Cup
Bobby Convey	2	1
Marcus Hahnemann	2	1
James Harper	2	1

## WHEN WE SCORE



## WHEN WE CONCEDE



## TOP GOALSCORERS IN 2008/9

	LGE	Cup	Total
Ibrahima Sonko	2	0	2
James Henry	0	1	1
Noel Hunt	0	1	1

## HOW WE SCORED



## WHERE WE SCORE FROM



## WHERE WE CONCEDE FROM



## COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Coventry	2	2	0	0	4	1	6	3
Preston	2	2	0	0	4	1	6	3
Birmingham	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	2
Wolverhampton	2	1	1	0	6	3	4	3
Reading	2	1	1	0	2	0	4	2
Cardiff City	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	1
Bristol City	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	1
Doncaster	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	1
Watford	2	1	1	0	1	0	4	1
Ipswich	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	2
Sheff Utd	2	1	0	1	3	1	3	2
Charlton	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	1
Sheffield Wed	2	1	0	1	5	5	3	0
Swansea	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	0
QPR	2	1	0	1	2	4	3	-2
Blackpool	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	-1
Derby	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	-1
Plymouth	2	0	1	1	2	4	1	-2
Norwich City	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	-2
Nottm Forest	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	-2
Crystal Palace	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	-2
Barnsley	2	0	0	2	2	4	0	-2
Southampton	2	0	0	2	2	4	0	-2
Burnley	2	0	0	2	1	7	0	-6

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

PLAYER	2008/9 SEASON			ROYALS		OVERALL	
	LGE	CUP	GLS	APP	GLS	APP	GLS
Bennett	-	-	-	-	-	21	1
Bikey	-	-	-	29(+15)	4	29(+15)	4
Church	-	-	-	-	-	15(+5)	1
Cisse	1(+1)	1	-	16(+11)	1	16(+11)	1
Convey	2	1	-	82(+24)	8	82(+24)	8
Doyle	2	-	-	108(+15)	39	108(+15)	39
Duberry	-	-	-	23(+1)	-	287(+20)	8
Fae	-	-	-	6(+5)	-	6(+5)	-
Federici	-	-	-	8(+2)	-	8(+2)	-
Golbourne	-	-	-	2(+2)	-	56(+8)	2
Gunnarsson	-	-	-	55(+26)	8	260(+39)	30
Hahnemann	2	1	-	270(+1)	-	281(+1)	-
Hamer	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Harper	2	1	-	282(+25)	25	285(+25)	25
Henry	-	1	1	1(+1)	1	9(+8)	5
N.Hunt	0(+1)	1	1	1(+1)	1	117(+56)	40
S.Hunt	2	1	-	82(+44)	13	227(+72)	42
Ingimarsson	2	1	-	206(+4)	11	370(+11)	25
Karacan	-	-	-	-	-	22(+2)	2
Kelly	0(+1)	1	-	1(+1)	-	1(+1)	-
Kebe	2	-	-	3(+4)	-	3(+4)	-
Lita	2	-	-	68(+23)	31	126(+72)	72
Long	0(+1)	1	-	28(+44)	11	28(+44)	11
Matejovsky	1	-	-	11(+4)	1	11(+4)	1
Murty	-	-	-	324(+14)	2	455(+26)	11
Pearce	-	1	-	2(+3)	-	37(+6)	1
Robson-Kanu	-	-	-	-	-	6(+2)	3
Rosenior	2	-	-	19(+2)	1	119(+32)	5
Shorey	-	-	-	296	12	308(+3)	12
Sodje	-	-	-	5(+3)	1	132(+8)	18
Sonko	2	-	2	130(+5)	7	220(+5)	16

## FIXTURES RESULTS 2008/9

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	ATT	VIS	POS	REFEREE
Sun 10 Aug	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	A 0-0	21,571	1,478	14	S Attwell
Tue 12 Aug	DAG & RED CC R1	A 2-1	2,360	682	✓	A Penn
Sat 16 Aug	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H 2-0	19,202	2,263	5	R Beby
Sat 23 Aug	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	A 12.45pm				
Tue 26 Aug	LUTON TOWN CC R2	H 8pm				
Sat 30 Aug	CRYSTAL PALACE	H 3pm				
Sat 13 Sep	IPSWICH TOWN	A 3pm				
Tue 16 Sep	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	H 8pm				
Sat 20 Sep	WATFORD	A 3pm				
Sat 27 Sep	SWANSEA CITY	H 3pm				
Tue 30 Sep	WOLVES	A 7.45pm				
Sat 04 Oct	BURNLEY	H 3pm				
Sat 18 Oct	PRESTON NORTH END	A 3pm				
Tue 21 Oct	DONCASTER ROVERS	H 8pm				
Sat 25 Oct	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H 5.20pm				
Tue 28 Oct	BURNLEY	A 7.45pm				
Sat 01 Nov	BRISTOL CITY	A 3pm				
Sat 08 Nov	DERBY COUNTY	H 3pm				
Sat 15 Nov	SHEFFIELD UNITED	A 3pm				
Sat 22 Nov	SOUTHAMPTON	H 3pm				
Tue 25 Nov	CARDIFF CITY	A 7.45pm				
Sat 29 Nov	COVENTRY CITY	H 3pm				
Sat 06 Dec	BARNLEY	A 3pm				
Tue 09 Dec	BLACKPOOL	H 8pm				
Sat 13 Dec	NORWICH CITY	H 3pm				
Sat 20 Dec	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A 3pm				
Fri 26 Dec	CARDIFF CITY	H 3pm				
Sun 28 Dec	SOUTHAMPTON	A 3pm				
Sat 10 Jan	WATFORD	H 3pm				
Sat 17 Jan	SWANSEA CITY	A 3pm				
Tue 27 Jan	WOLVES	H 8pm				
Sat 31 Jan	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	A 3pm				
Tue 03 Feb	DONCASTER ROVERS	A 7.45pm				
Sat 07 Feb	PRESTON NORTH END	H 3pm				
Sat 14 Feb	DERBY COUNTY	A 3pm				
Sat 21 Feb	BRISTOL CITY	H 3pm				
Sat 28 Feb	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H 3pm				
Tue 03 Mar	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	A 7.45pm				
Sat 07 Mar	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A 3pm				
Tue 10 Mar	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H 8pm				
Sat 14 Mar	IPSWICH TOWN	H 3pm				
Sat 21 Mar	CRYSTAL PALACE	A 3pm				
Sat 04 Apr	COVENTRY CITY	A 3pm				
Sat 11 Apr	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H 3pm				
Mon 13 Apr	BLACKPOOL	A 7.45pm				
Sat 18 Apr	BARNLEY	H 3pm				
Sat 25 Apr	NORWICH CITY	A 3pm				
Sun 03 May	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H 3pm				

GK	RB	LB	CB	CB	CM	CM	RM	LM	ST	ST	SUBS
Hahnemann	Rosenior	S Hunt	Ingimarsson	Sonko	1 Matejovsky	Harper	Kebe	Convey	Doyle	Lita	1 Cisse, Long, Pearce, Kelly, Andersen
Hahnemann	Kelly	S Hunt	Ingimarsson	Pearce	Cisse	Harper	Henry1	Convey	N Hunt1	Long	Lita, Church, Kebe, Sigurdsson, Karacan, Rosenior, Andersen
Hahnemann	Rosenior	S Hunt	Ingimarsson	Sonko2	Cisse	Harper	Kebe	2 Convey	1 Doyle	3 Lita	1 Long, 2 Kelly, 3 N Hunt, Pearce, Andersen

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# READING

Manager: Steve Coppell



- 1 Marcus Hahnemann
- 2 Graeme Murty
- 4 Kalifa Cisse
- 6 Brynjar Gunnarsson
- 7 Marek Matejovsky
- 8 Leroy Lita
- 9 Kevin Doyle
- 10 Stephen Hunt
- 11 Noel Hunt
- 12 David Mooney
- 13 Reading Fans
- 14 Jimmy Kebe
- 15 James Harper
- 16 Ivar Ingimarsson
- 17 Bobby Convey
- 18 Sam Sodje
- 21 Jem Karacan
- 22 Liam Rosenior
- 23 Andre Bikey
- 24 Shane Long
- 26 Alex Pearce
- 27 James Henry
- 29 Michael Duberry
- 30 Oliver Bozanic
- 31 Ibrahima Sonko
- 32 Adam Federici
- 33 Scott Golbourne
- 34 Gylfi Sigurdsson
- 35 Simon Church
- 36 Mikkel Andersen
- 37 Viktor Illugason
- 39 Nicholas Bignall
- 40 Tom Hateley
- 42 Julian Kelly
- 43 Daniel Spence
- 49 Alex McCarthy

# LUTON TOWN

Manager: Mick Harford



- 1 Dean Brill
- 2 Claude Gnaka
- 3 Sol Davis
- 4 Keith Keane
- 5 Ian Roper
- 6 George Pilkington
- 8 Kevin Nicholls
- 9 Sam Parkin
- 10 Ryan Charles
- 11 Lewis Emanuel
- 14 Asa Hall
- 15 Ed Asafu-Adjaye
- 16 Rossi Jarvis
- 17 Kevin Watson
- 18 Chris Martin
- 19 Drew Talbot
- 20 Michael Spillane
- 22 Josh Klein-Davies
- 23 Tristan Plummer
- 26 Richard Jackson
- 27 Dean Morgan
- 28 Paul McVeigh
- 35 Marlon Beresford
- 36 Aaron Fletcher
- 37 George Beavan
- 39 Harry Hogarth
- 40 Jake Howells
- 41 Conrad Logan

## KEY

- Player started in the last game
- Player named as a substitute in the last game

## MIDWEEK FIXTURES

Tuesday 26th August 2008

- Bolton vs Northampton Town, 7.45pm
- Coventry City vs Newcastle United, 7.45pm
- Hartlepool United vs West Brom, 7.45pm
- Middlesbrough vs Yeovil Town, 8pm
- Swansea City vs Hull City, 7.45pm
- Wigan vs Notts County, 7.45pm

Wednesday 27th August 2008

- Blackburn vs Grimsby Town, 7.45pm
- Fulham vs Leicester City, 8pm
- Nottingham Forest vs Sunderland, 7.45pm
- West Ham vs Macclesfield Town, 7.45pm

## MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE **Mr D Whitestone**
- ASSIST 1 **Mr E I Smith**
- ASSIST 2 **Mr O Satiy**
- 4th OFFICIAL **Mr M J Foley**

## NEXT MATCH AT MADEJSKI STADIUM

READING vs CRYSTAL PALACE



Coca-Cola Championship  
 Saturday 30th August 2008  
 Kick off 3pm  
 See pages 48-49 for more information

Modest beginnings: The landfill site that John Madejski swiftly transformed into Reading Football Club's state-of-the-art new home.



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